

Kurds storm Turkish embassy in London

LONDON (AP) — Kurdish demonstrators broke into the Turkish embassy Friday morning and caused "quite a lot of damage" before being arrested, police said.

Commander Robert Marsh of Scotland Yard told reporters that about 40 demonstrators got into the embassy in Belgrave Square at about 11 a.m. "There is no evidence that anybody has been assaulted or shot at," Commander Marsh said.

Turkey's semi-official Anadolu news agency had reported that shots were heard. Commander Marsh said, however, that the demonstrators did "quite a lot of damage" to the building.

"We have to sort out what they did in the embassy and who did it," he said, adding that the demonstrators did not enter the embassy holding their hands high, followed by police.

The takeover ended at about 12:20 p.m. The police cordoned off the area, and about 10 demonstrators remained in the centre of the square.

One carried a banner saying "Stop genocide in Kurdistan," and another said, "Turkey: Human rights black hole."

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Mitterrand: Gulf war principles could solve other crises

TUNIS (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand, making his first visit to an Arab country since the Gulf war, said the principles used to justify the freeing of Kuwait could be used to solve the Palestinian problem.

Assad holds talks with Chinese premier

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad met with Chinese Premier Li Peng Friday but no details emerged from the talks.

Morocco blocks U.N. review of its rights record

GENEVA (AP) — Morocco prevented a U.N. panel from examining its human rights record Friday by insisting that television cameras be banned from the public meeting.

Mauritania denies human rights charges

NOUAKCHOTT (R) — Mauritania has rejected accusations by Amnesty International that security forces of its government have tortured and killed hundreds of black citizens.

U.S. pays \$54.6m to U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (USIA) — The United States paid \$54.6 million as part of its annual dues to the United Nations regular budget July 10, U.S. officials announced.

Government's 'traditional' policy statement unlikely to be crucial factor

By Nermeen Murad Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Tahir Masi's government policy statement, presented to the Lower House Thursday, was either too "mild" or contained few new elements that are capable of swinging support for or away from the government in the House, according to deputies and politicians.

But while those critical of the statement maintain that it does not go far enough to bring needed change in the country and has left out important and specific details, cabinet ministers insist that the government programme was "honest, practical and unprecedented in its spirit of team work and in the speed with which it was prepared, and as such it deserves support from everybody."

Some deputies and politicians interviewed by the Jordan Times yesterday maintained that Mr. Masi's statement to the House

was written in a traditional and general tone and failed to provide specific plans for dealing with the Kingdom's problems, especially poverty and unemployment.

Others said the statement does not go far enough in meeting the vision embodied in the King's letter of appointment to the cabinet.

But "while it is true that the statement only provided headlines for the economic and social policies of the government," one cabinet minister said, "this does not mean that specific plans and policies did not exist or were not discussed by the cabinet."

"We did a lot of work and made headway on a great number of issues," the minister said.

and in an unprecedented spirit of team work. We simply could not give all details in the policy statement."

The cabinet minister gave an example of the government's moves to abolish martial law.

"We took martial law and started from scratch. Within days

See page 4 for text of Prime Minister Tahir Masi's policy statement presented to the Lower House of Parliament on Thursday

we prepared a comprehensive plan to repeal it," he said. "We have also gone a long way towards finalising the draft laws of elections and press publications to present them to this extraordinary session of parliament to approve them," he added.

"This move on its own should indicate that this government has a target and that there is a team working collectively to reach that target."

"We could not get more specific on any particular policy. If we did we would spend days on each section in the statement." He argued that many of the specifics will be provided in response to the deputies' demands and inquiries during the confidence session.

"We provided headlines stating that we intend to deal with this and the other issue. The deputies will ask us on the mechanisms and that is when we will reply in specifics."

While some deputies and politicians were divided on how detailed the policy statement could have been, others contended that the way it was presented was a tactic to avoid confrontation with the deputies over specifics. The ministers, however, denied that the statement was aimed at neutralising opposition by the deputies or appeasing them.

"We were very honest and the statement embodies our goals



Tahir Masi

and our direction," one minister said. "No tactics were needed or used," he said, adding that if "there was a real sense of justice among parliamentarians our performance so far would have been acknowledged as serious."

On the accusation that the policy statement failed to define this government's role in the

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Bush approves list of targets in Iraq

Allied troops leaving northern region

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. President George Bush has approved a target list of Iraqi military command and control centres that would be bombed if Baghdad ignored U.N. orders to destroy its nuclear technology, administration officials said Friday.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, stressed that no air strike was imminent. They declined to confirm a New York Times report that about 20 military targets were on the list.

The announcement represented a change in earlier U.S. strategy to destroy only sites where the government of President Saddam Hussein was working to produce enriched nuclear materials for atomic weapons.

The officials said that strikes against command and control sites would do more to punish the Iraqi military, already weakened by the Gulf war.

"There is a contingency plan involving those. I will not get into details," said one official. But he noted that attacks against such centres were a major factor in undermining Baghdad's ability to fight in the Gulf war.

Mr. Bush spoke by telephone Thursday with British Prime Minister John Major about Iraq. British officials later said the two agreed that Iraq had violated a U.N. resolution ordering it to provide full details of its nuclear programme so the sites could be removed or destroyed.

Iraq this week provided a list of research sites and nuclear equipment to the United Nations, but said the programme was aimed at advancing its technology for peaceful purposes.

Mr. Bush and senior U.S. officials said the list was a step forward but voiced scepticism that Iraq had provided all of the information necessary.

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Eyskens restates warning to Israel

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens warned Israel Friday it would have close economic cooperation with Europe only if it established peace with its Arab neighbours.

"If you want the implementation of very close economic cooperation, you need peace," Mr. Eyskens told reporters after talks with Israel's right-wing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

It was the second time this week a European envoy had warned Israel that its hopes for economic concessions from the European Community (EC) were linked to progress on Middle East peace.

"Although we could start negotiations on including Israel in a kind of European economic space, the total implementation of such a close cooperation is only possible provided the environment here is an environment of peace and cooperation with the other countries," Mr. Eyskens said.

Mr. Eyskens used as an example of cooperation the management of the arid region's limited water resources, saying solving shortages was impossible while Israel and Arab states remained in a formal state of war.

Israel opposes plans for a decision-making Middle East peace conference based on an exchange of land for peace and instead wants a largely ceremonial conference to be followed by face-to-face talks with individual Arab states.

The talks with Mr. Eyskens followed a visit by European Commissioner for Mediterranean Policy Abel Matutes to negotiate terms for an EC representative to distribute aid to Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

While Mr. Matutes won agreement that the EC representative would have diplomatic status and could move freely in the occupied territories, he returned to Brussels Thursday with the exact terms for the office still undecided.

Relations with the EC have frequently been strained over Israel's treatment of Palestinians during their 3-month-long uprising.

Israel is suspicious of the EC which it considers as biased against it.

Mr. Matutes' economic adviser, Marc Pierini, warned Wednesday the EC would deny Israel preferential trade status after 1992 unless it made peace with its Arab neighbours and the Palestinians.

Israel is negotiating its trade status after EC countries form a single market after 1992. Israel hopes to get benefits similar to the non-EC European countries belonging to European Free

Algerian activists received external help — Ibrahim

AMMAN (J.T.) — Algerian Foreign Minister Ali Akhdar Al Ibrahim said Friday he hoped that the Algerian government would be able to solve the country's problems, including the recent flare-up in Islamic fundamentalist unrest.

In an interview with Jordan Television's Arabic service, Mr. Ibrahim said the first priority of the Algerian government was preparations for holding legislative elections in the quickest possible time in "a manner that will satisfy the majority of the Algerian people."

Although the government is transitional, it still should solve problems facing Algeria, whether they were social, economic or other problems, he said.

Mr. Ibrahim who arrived here Thursday, said that in the latest incidents which occurred in Algeria the Islamic fundamentalists received foreign help from outside Algeria, but did not name any country.

"There is no doubt that some of the elements of the Algerian organisations or parties held contacts with foreign sides; this is not a secret," he said.

Although there is no decisive evidence, there is information that affirms that weapons were smuggled into Algeria, he said.

Confessions were made by foreigners caught while smuggling arms to Algeria, he said.

"Those foreigners spoke in their confessions of relations between them and some Algerians. These relations are the concern of the Algerian security forces and the judiciary system," he added without elaboration.

Mr. Ibrahim said he discussed during his visit to Lebanon the implementation of the Arab League-brokered Al Taif agreement.

He said one of the pact's stages includes spreading the power of the Lebanese forces over all of Lebanon.

"Unfortunately, our Palestinian and Lebanese brethren had a misunderstanding over this stage, but this was settled between them directly," he said.

Mr. Ibrahim leaves Amman Saturday at the end of a two-day visit to Jordan.

Mr. Ibrahim was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday. The two men discussed the Middle East and issues in the Arab World.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the Crown Prince and Mr. Ibrahim discussed ways for stimulating international efforts to find peace in the region and reviewed Jordanian-Algerian cooperation in various fields.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensur.

Kuwait to expel 50,000 to Iraq

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Kuwait will expel nearly 50,000 people of various nationalities and stateless Arabs in the next few weeks, according to international relief organisations.

The expulsions will be made across the border with Iraq and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is calling for voluntary help from non-governmental organisations to cope with the flood at the border town of Safwan.

According to an internal memo of the league, a copy of which was obtained by the Jordan Times, Iraqi, Jordanian, Syrian, Somali and Sudanese nationals as well as stateless Arabs (bedouins) with no travel documents — "Kuwait-born but of Iraqi origin whose destinations remain unknown" — will be among those expelled.

Expatriate sources said in Amman that at least 20,000 of the expelled would be Jordanian passport holders, including permanent residents of the occupied West Bank who carry temporary Jordanian passports.

The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies says the expelled people are left at the Kuwaiti border post at Abdali, from where they face a two-kilometre walk across the desert in temperatures soaring up to 55 degrees Centigrade.

Relief workers familiar with the terrain said it was almost impossible for the elderly and children to manage the two-kilometre walk, and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies was trying to set up a transport system between Abdali and Safwan.

Most of the people expected to be cast out of Kuwait are currently held at desert camps in the vicinity. Others are rounded up in Kuwait City.

Two batches of expelled Iraqis and other nationals as well as stateless Arabs arrived in Safwan last week. The deportations are scheduled to be in groups brought to Abdali every Tuesday and Saturday, according to the memo of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Expatriate sources said Jordanian passport holders were also expected to be flown out of Kuwait to Egypt and Syria.

While those holding Jordanian or any other travel documents do not face any serious problem, expatriates from the occupied Gaza Strip holding Egyptian documents confront a dilemma: Egypt has imposed a strict screening system before allowing them

Talabani says talks with Saddam 'excellent'

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Kurdish rebel leader Jalal Talabani said Friday his meeting with President Saddam Hussein was "excellent" and cleared some obstacles to a Kurdish autonomy deal.

Mr. Talabani, one of the two main leaders of the revolt which flared in the Kurdish north after the Gulf war, met the Iraqi president on Thursday. "It was excellent," he told Reuters.

Asked whether the meeting had cleared some of the obstacles to agreement, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) leader replied: "I hope so. I think so."

Massoud Barzani, head of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), said the two sides were close to a deal.

"We have some new points to discuss with the government but I think we are very near to the agreement," he said. Mr. Barzani is leading the delegation of the

eight-party Kurdistan Front umbrella group in the talks with the government.

Mr. Talabani and Mr. Barzani were speaking after lunching with Prince Saddam Hussein Aga Khan, the man in overall charge of the U.N. humanitarian effort in Iraq and Kuwait.

Mr. Talabani was considered one of the key figures behind the rejection of an agreement Mr. Barzani negotiated with the government last month.

It was the first time the two leaders have appeared in Baghdad together since the failed Kurdish rebellion.

Prior to the luncheon meeting with the U.N. delegation at a government guest house, Mr. Talabani declined to answer questions about whether last

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Prayers held for victims of Nigerian Haj plane crash

JEDDAH (AP) — Worshipers at public prayers Friday remembered the nearly 250 Nigerian Muslim pilgrims who died in a blazing plane crash along with a flight crew from Canada.

Saudi King Fahd, who described the tragedy as "God's will" in a cable to Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida, ordered the cancellation of the season's top soccer match, which he was scheduled to attend.

People who die while on the Haj are considered martyrs. They are not supposed to be mourned, but remembered as those destined straight for heaven.

The passengers aboard the ill-fated plane had completed this year's Haj.

There was no indication whether the crucial flight data and cockpit voice recorders from the plane had been recovered by the Saudi civil aviation authority, which launched an investigation hours after the crash early Thursday.

The Canadian-owned DC-8 jet nose-dived into the tarmac and exploded in a fireball minutes after take-off, scattering the charred, broken bodies of the victims along the runway.

There were no survivors among at least 261 people aboard the plane, chartered by the Nigerian-based firm Holdtrade to take the pilgrims home to Sokoto, Nigeria.

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Kuwait blast wounds 59 allied soldiers

DOHA, Kuwait (Agencies) — A chain of explosions which sent shrapnel scything through a joint U.S. and British military base in Kuwait wounded 59 soldiers and wrecked top-line tanks, military officials said Friday.

The officials told Reuters 53 Americans and six Britons were wounded after an exploding vehicle set off a chain reaction during a training exercise Thursday.

"One of the injured is in a very serious condition. The others suffered cuts, burns and bruises from shrapnel and flying glass," a U.S. spokesman said of the condition of the wounded Americans.

Up to 40 vehicles, including M1A1-Abrams tanks, were destroyed by the chain of blasts which rapidly spread through tanks and other vehicles loaded with explosives.

Sabotage was ruled out and army experts were investigating the cause of the blasts which took three hours to bring under control, the officials said.

On Friday, the seaside base, 25 kilometres west of Kuwait City, was still sealed off by troops.

"The area is still unsafe," the U.S. military spokesman said, adding that sappers were scanning the base for unexploded ammunition.

The teams "are going in very gingerly around the edges to take

a look. They need to locate all the ordnance," said Judy Bradford, spokesman for the 11th Armoured Cavalry Regiment. She said the depot was strewn with cluster bombs and other unexploded munitions, adding, "There is some very nasty stuff out there."

Military officials believe the fire was started by an electrical short on a truck loaded with howitzer shells.

The heat generated by the fire can cause rounds to erupt long after the flames have been doused, so the explosive ordnance detachments usually wait 24 hours after the last round went off to enter the area, said Warren Lacy of the U.S. Army Central Command Friday.

The accident was the most serious involving allied troops in Kuwait since the emirate was liberated from Iraqi occupation on Feb. 28.

The Doha base is home to most of remaining 3,700 U.S. troops in Kuwait. The Americans are due to leave Kuwait by September while the last British ground forces are expected out by the end of July.

Military officials in Washington said vehicles damaged or destroyed, included 14 of the top-of-the-line M1-A1 tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles that were

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U.N. team to recommend easing of sanctions on Iraq

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Prince Saddam Hussein Aga Khan, heading a special U.N. mission to Iraq, said Friday he would recommend that sanctions against Iraq be eased to allow Baghdad to purchase essential supplies.

Prince Saddam told a news conference he would make the recommendation to the U.N. Sanctions Committee and said Iraq should be allowed to use its own resources to buy food and medicine.

He said it would be up to the Sanctions Committee to decide how this should be carried out.

Iraq has asked the United Nations to allow it to sell about \$1 billion worth of oil to buy desperately needed goods. It also wants foreign governments to free Iraqi assets frozen after the Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

A number of foreign leaders, including U.S. President George Bush and British Prime Minister

John Major, have said the sanctions should stay in place until Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is deposed.

Prince Saddam, compiling a report on the needs of Iraq and the impact of economic sanctions, said a way must be found to check that any money released was spent only on food and medicine.

"Iraqi funds must be used soon," he told the news conference.

The Sanctions Committee Thursday postponed action on the Iraqi request to sell oil (see page 2).

Sir John Moberley, a British expert on the team, warned that Iraqi civilians could face catastrophe if the international embargo was not relaxed.

"We can't avoid the conclusion that if there is no more money to spend, there will be much more

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On the Occasion of Al-Hijra Year

ARAB BANK

has the honour to convey to HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN and to the Jordanian people its felicitations and most cordial wishes

Karami: Hostages' plight will end soon

BEIRUT (AP) — Prime Minister Omar Karami says he has information that the plight of Western hostages held in Lebanon will end soon, according to an interview published Friday.

His interior minister, Major General Sami Khatib, said in a separate interview that the government is working to free them. Asked during an interview with state television whether he saw any sign that the hostage problem would be resolved, Mr. Karami said: "Our information is that it's going to be soon. God willing."

The text of the interview was published in Beirut newspapers Friday. Mr. Karami did not elaborate and the interviewer did not press for further information during the Thursday night broadcast.

Gen. Khatib, in an interview published by the London-based Lebanese magazine, *Al Hawadess*, said: "We had nothing to do as a government with the hostage taking. True it happened on our territory but that was when the state was paralysed during the civil war."

"However, we are now responsible as far as exerting efforts to free those hostages is concerned. We are trying to help within this context," he said.

There are 13 Westerners missing in Lebanon: Six Americans, four Britons, two Germans and an Italian.

The longest held hostage is Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, who was kidnapped in Beirut March 16, 1985.

Gen. Khatib did not spell out the ways the government is trying to help, but said: "We believe the solution of the hostages' issue will serve Lebanon's interests and efforts to consolidate peace."

The government is trying to extend its authority throughout the country following an Arab League-brokered peace accord last December designed to end Lebanon's 16-year civil war.

The major civil war combatants, militias, have handed over their weapons and stopped fighting. The army is now disarming Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) guerrillas in

the south.

But many factions, including the pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim groups which are believed to be holding the Westerners, have not surrendered their weapons and are not known to be under the control of either the government or the 40,000 Syrian troops authorised by the Arab League to keep peace in the country.

The hostage-holding groups are believed to be operating under the wing of the fundamentalist Hizbollah, Iran's main Shiite ally in Lebanon. Lebanese intelligence sources had said that all the captives were removed from Beirut before the Lebanese army took over the capital's control from disarmed militias.

The sources had said the hostages were whisked by their captors from former prisons in Beirut's southern slums to Hizbollah's strongholds in and around the town of Baalbek in the Bekaa Valley of eastern Lebanon.

The sources said the hostages were believed to be held in Baalbek's Sheikh Abdallah hilltop military barracks and others in the neighbouring hamlets of Nabi Sheit and Brital.

The government says it plans in September to disarm Hizbollah and some 3,000 Iranian Revolutionary Guards dispatched to Lebanon after Israel's 1982 invasion.

"It is known to all around that neither the Lebanese state or government or the Lebanese people are responsible for the hostages' issue," Mr. Karami said.

The reference to the hostages came up as the prime minister spoke of ways to revive tourism in Lebanon.

"Violence is over to no return in Lebanon," said Mr. Karami. "We assure foreign tourists that the forces of the state have become responsible for their protection."

Before the civil war broke out in 1975, Lebanon's beaches, ski resorts, posh nightclubs and gambling casinos were major tourist attractions in the Middle East.

Iran: Arms control plan 'ambiguous, mysterious'

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani said Friday that a U.S.-led plan for arms control in the Middle East was "ambiguous and mysterious."

He said in a prayer sermon at Tehran University that the plan "reinforces our worst suspicions" that only some countries in the region will be targeted for disarmament.

The cleric-president, his voice composed after breaking with emotion earlier as he recounted a historical religious anecdote, said that if the plan was "comprehensive, then we are ready."

He said, "when you disarm Israel, then we are ready to sit down and talk."

He said the United States could not justify singling out the Middle East for disarmament just because it was a volatile region.

Mr. Rafsanjani said the Balkans, Africa and Latin America are equally unstable.

Responding to an initiative by President George Bush to control arms sales in the Middle East, the world's five major arms suppliers met in Paris earlier this week, and agreed to exercise greater responsibility in arms sales to Middle East countries.

The two-day meeting involved the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China.

But Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, gave

notice Thursday that Tehran would not be bound by any arms control agreement that may emerge.

He said the plan was aimed at "countering Islam and oppressing the Islamic movement," and that the United States and the West "will not succeed in this policy."

"The bullies of the world loathe nothing more than Islam," he told a group of senior clerics in Tehran.

Mr. Rafsanjani said: "The U.S. proposal is too ambiguous and mysterious."

Hinting Washington could not stop arms sales to Iran, he said that in his talks with Chinese Premier Li Peng in Tehran earlier this week, he learned that Beijing also found the plan too ambiguous.

Mr. Li arrived in Damascus Thursday, the fifth stop on his six-nation Middle East tour.

Before leaving for Damascus, he said in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia: "China fully approves the idea of destroying all the nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in the region, but this should be done equally and comprehensively."

Mr. Li told a news conference that Beijing did not support a lopsided approach to arms control.

The United States government has already pledged to sell advanced combat jets and helicopters to Saudi Arabia and its neighbours.

Sudan sees food gap close

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's information minister says reports of famine in his country are grossly exaggerated and the government is closing a "food gap" caused by three years of drought.

Abdulla Mohammad Ahmad told Reuters in an interview late on Thursday the Western press had distorted the famine issue and the government's perceived pro-Iraqi position on the Gulf war.

He said soon after Iraq invaded Kuwait reports began to appear in the West that nine million of Sudan's 26 million people faced famine because of drought and an eight-year civil war.

"I'm not going to dismiss the fact that there is a food gap but not to the extent that millions are dying. Until now I don't see these millions dying in Sudan," he said.

He said recent official visitors to the worst-hit areas of Darfur province, in western Sudan, had been struck by the abundance of food in the markets there.

Visits to the area by foreigners were restricted because of bandits, he said. Few Western reporters have visited Darfur and an application by Reuters for a travel permit is awaiting clearance from provincial security, he said.

The United Nations World Food Programme estimates 7.5 million Sudanese face food shortages this year because of three successive droughts and a civil war in the south. It has appealed for 1.2 million tonnes of food aid.

Western aid agencies say about half that amount has arrived at Port Sudan.

Mr. Ahmad said the "food gap" had been virtually closed by government commercial purchases of about 350,000 tonnes of food, a planting scheme that gave precedence to food crops over traditional cotton exports and international relief work.

He acknowledged Western relief efforts but said praise should go to the Sudanese government. "We made our own efforts, we have cut back on cotton to grow wheat, maize, sorghum," he said.

"Instead of feeding the textile industry abroad, we are feeding our own people."

Self-sufficiency is the watchword of the government of Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Ali Bashir which came to power in a coup two years ago and has pursued policies seen to be broadly in line with the Islamic fundamentalist movement.

The Sudanese People's Liberation Army has been fighting the government since 1983 to end what it sees as domination of the Muslim and Arabised north over the Christian and animist south.

"We want to dismiss all these relief activities, to produce as much as possible, because we realise that these people (aid agencies) interfere in our internal affairs," Mr. Ahmad said.

"We don't want our people to depend on relief. Our experience shows that the people who depend upon relief become lazy. We want them back to work," he said.

The government also needed to be self-sufficient to feed a million refugees from Uganda, Chad, Zaire and more recently Ethiopia, where the government was overthrown in May.

"We can't close our borders and stop these people pouring in," he said.

Mr. Ahmad said Sudan's stance on the Gulf crisis had been misunderstood and that both the United States and Britain had cut off aid as a result.

He gave no figures but some Western estimates say Khartoum has lost more than \$200 million in aid from the West and Gulf states since the crisis.

8 Arab states some way from Gulf security deal

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said Friday the eight Arab states in the anti-Iraq coalition were still some way from agreement on a post-Gulf war security force.

The foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria and the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states are expected to meet in Kuwait Monday to discuss forming the force to fill the vacuum left by the withdrawal of Western forces.

"The question of security is important and dangerous and needs deep and careful studying," Mr. Musa told reporters.

It could take two or three meetings because one must reach the best method of agreement, coordination and understanding for Gulf security and to give the chance for all countries to express their opinions.

Diplomats said Mr. Musa's remarks indicated that the ministers were unlikely to come away from their Kuwait meeting with an agreement on the size, cost and composition of the force.

Gulf states fear Cairo and Damascus will ask too high a price for the presence of their troops.

The meeting had been due to take place on July 9 but was unexpectedly postponed. Mr. Musa said some of the ministers had prior engagements.

Differences have arisen since the Arab allies first signed an agreement in March that Egyptian and Syrian troops should form the nucleus of an Arab

peacekeeping force in the Gulf. The GCC groups Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Iran, which now has the most powerful army in the Gulf, also wants a role in the region's security. Tehran opposes any foreign presence in the Gulf and has so far been excluded from the Arab plans.

Diplomats said some Gulf states do not want any non-Gulf Arab troops in the Gulf and prefer Western protection. Others have suggested amending the March agreement and sending Egyptian and Syrian troops to the Gulf only if a crisis should arise.

"There are ideas and thoughts which will be discussed during this meeting to come out with the best formula for Gulf security and to avoid what happened," Mr. Musa said, referring to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August.

The countries at one stage agreed on a 26,000-strong force with Cairo and Damascus contributing 3,000 men each.

Diplomats said Egypt had indicated that if Gulf states wanted to drop the provision that Egyptian and Syrian soldiers should form the nucleus of the force, it would agree.

Mr. Musa flew to Saudi Arabia Wednesday on a surprise one-day visit which diplomats said was aimed at sorting out Egypt's position ahead of Monday's meeting.

Najibullah suggests U.S.-Soviet cooperation

KABUL (AP) — President Najibullah, voicing confidence in new peace efforts and his ability to stay in power, said the United States and the Soviet Union should join forces to stop arms supplies and promote a ceasefire in Afghanistan's 13-year civil war.

The former secret police chief, who survived the withdrawal of his Soviet allies and a hit-and-run war waged by the Mujahedeen, insists he is the only one who can lead fractious Afghanistan.

In an interview with the Associated Press, he rejected any possibility of giving up power, even joking that he deserved a Nobel Peace Prize if he could end the fighting.

He said the U.S. and Soviet governments should join forces to settle the superpower-fueled conflict that has raged since 1978.

"I think they can release a joint statement. It will contribute to a ceasefire as well as to ending the supply of weapons from all sides to all sides. They can also cooperate and contribute to a convocation of a regional conference or an international conference," Mr. Najibullah said.

The 43-year-old president made his comments in written responses to questions and during a two-hour conversation on the lawn outside his bunker-like house in the heart of Kabul.

Mr. Najibullah rose to lead his fractious nation in December 1986 by shunting aside Bahrak Karmal, who attained leadership in a 1979 coup made possible by the arrival of Soviet troops.

The president said he supports U.N. and Swiss efforts to start peace talks with the Mujahedeen and said the talks should have no preconditions.

But Mr. Najibullah asserted that the loss of his leadership would create a power vacuum and lead to greater bloodshed, even if it coincided with the installation of a caretaker government and U.N.-supervised elections.

"There would be a gap of power and because of the presence of so many factions in the country, it would be difficult to fill up this gap and it would naturally lead to an internal war

in the country," he said.

Internal war has raged since the Moscow-backed People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) seized power in a coup that killed Prime Minister Mohammad Daoud. Mr. Daoud had come to power by staging his own coup five years earlier to overthrow his cousin, King Zahir Shah.

The PDPA was soon under attack by an array of guerrilla groups.

Afghanistan became an arena for a superpower proxy war as the Soviet Union armed the Kabul regime while the Mujahedeen received weapons from the United States, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and other Muslim nations.

The Soviet Union withdrew the last of its 115,000 troops from Afghanistan in February 1989 but still sends Mr. Najibullah's government an estimated \$250 million to \$300 million a month worth of arms, food and fuel.

The United States gives about that amount each year to the Mujahedeen, whose members also frequently fight each other.

Thirteen months ago, in a move his critics charged was cosmetic, Mr. Najibullah dissolved the PDPA and created the Watan (Homeland) party. All 12 members of the Watan party's executive board came from the PDPA, and all but one had served on its politburo.

Mr. Najibullah, however, maintained the Watan party reflects a new era and adheres to Islam and a free-market economy, not socialism.

The Afghan president said he has brought democracy to the country. But people in the capital still lower their voices and look over their shoulders when criticising the government.

Mr. Najibullah disputed a report issued in February by Asia Watch, a U.S.-based affiliate of the International Human Rights Watch, that said torture and detentions without charge have declined in Afghanistan but still exist.

"I have not agreed with some parts of it that say persons are tortured," he said.

China exercising tighter control on arms sales

WASHINGTON (R) — China's political leaders have begun to exercise tighter control on arms sales that once were left to the military and it is now believed unlikely Beijing would deliver missiles to Syria, a senior U.S. official said Thursday.

Although the United States remains concerned about aspects of China's arms trade, the Chinese "are reorganising the way they approach this problem," said the official, who spoke with reporters on the condition that he not be identified.

Until recently, the Chinese military "with its budget significantly reduced, wanting to modernise, has had a reasonably unconstrained ability to try to go up and market its defence product" around the world, the official said.

But "what we're seeing in recent months is an effort to change that pattern and bring their arms sales under much tighter political discipline," he said.

China's arms trade has become a matter of increasing concern in the U.S. Congress and is a factor in widespread opposition on Capitol Hill to extending — without tough conditions — favourable trade benefits to China.

Recently, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker warned that Beijing's sale of weapons to the Middle East — specifically to Pakistan and Syria — could further damage what many view as an already shaky Sino-American relationship.

China's ambassador to the United States, Zhu Qizhen, two weeks ago admitted that his government supplied to Pakistan a limited number of short-range tactical missiles.

But it was unclear exactly what missile he referred to. U.S. officials said the administration has not yet determined if these missiles violated the limits of the 1987 Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).

The MTCR was designed to curb the export of missiles capable of carrying nuclear-sized payloads more than 295 kilometres.

"Exactly what the range (of the missile sold to Pakistan) is, what the warhead is, how it relates to MTCR, what they are doing with Syria are all issues on the table and we are finding ourselves in a serious discussion on those issues," the senior U.S. official said.

The Chinese ambassador insisted Beijing had not sold any missile to Syria.

The senior U.S. official noted that China has a \$15 billion trade surplus with the United States that undoubtedly would suffer if missiles were sold to Syria and said such weapons sales would not begin to compensate for the trade loss.

Beyond that, this official argued that China, as one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, wants to be a player in global affairs and knows it can only do that by cooperating with the United States, the Soviet Union, France, Britain and other leading countries.

Saudi-Chinese cooperation

Saudi Arabia and China will sign an agreement on economic and trade cooperation soon, a joint statement issued in Jeddah said.

The statement, carried by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) Thursday night, followed a three-day visit to the Saudi Red Sea port by Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng.

SPA said King Fahd had accepted an invitation to visit China at a time still to be fixed.

Sanctions panel defers decision on Iraqi oil sales

UNITED NATIONS (USIA) — The Sanctions Committee has postponed any review of Baghdad's request to sell \$1,500 million worth of oil until later this month.

Sanctions Committee Chairman Ambassador Peter Hohenberger of Austria said that the 15-nation committee needs more information on the situation in Iraq to discuss the issue will be brought up next week after the committee receives a report from the U.N. special representative for humanitarian aid to the Gulf.

U.N. special representative Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan is currently on a fact-finding mission in Iraq to assess Iraq's food and medical needs.

Iraq has approached the Sanctions Committee several times since the ceasefire seeking permission to sell oil and to persuade its overseas assets to enable it to buy basic foodstuffs and medicine.

Under the embargo imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait, nations are prohibited from buying oil or any other products from Iraq. The Sanctions Committee monitors all shipments to and from Iraq and must give its approval if Iraq is to sell oil on world markets. In May the committee noted that Iraq may use its assets to buy food and essential materials to meet civilian humanitarian needs under the Security Council's ceasefire resolution, adding that Iraq does not need to begin selling oil to purchase food.

The formal council ceasefire

plan (Resolution 687) passed on April 3 stipulates that as Baghdad meets conditions for destroying weapons of mass destruction and other demands according to a set timetable, sanctions against Iraq will be lifted. The plan also calls for the establishment of a commission that will determine a mechanism for using some of Iraq's oil revenues to pay reparations for damages to Kuwait.

The United States and other Western countries oppose any changes in the sanctions regime until Iraq has made a thorough declaration of its gold and currency reserves.

U.S. officials have contended that Iraq's request is not about food but rather is scheme to get back into the oil exporting business. They have pointed to the massive assistance programme launched by the United Nations and Iraq's ability to use its foreign assets and foreign exchange on hand as of last August 1 to buy food.

Some committee members also are concerned that Iraq will try to divert the assets to purchase military supplies. They allege that about one million tonnes of food has been shipped to Iraq in recent months but that Baghdad has withheld supplies from Kurdish and Shiite areas.

Committee members have mentioned that an equitable food distribution system should be established before the U.N. embargo is lifted. Prince Sadruddin also is expected to propose some systems for food distribution and for Iraqi oil sales under U.N. auspices.

'Satanic Verses' translator stabbed to death in Japan

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese scholar who translated Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses" was stabbed to death on Friday, two years after Iran's Islamic authorities condemned the work and sentenced its author to death.

Police said it was too soon to say whether Professor Hitoshi Igarashi was killed because he translated Mr. Rushdie's work. The attacker has not been identified.

Prof. Igarashi, 44, had links to pre-revolutionary Iran, the Japanese foreign ministry said.

At the late Shah's invitation, he studied in 1976 at the Royal Iranian Philosophical Academy in Tehran. The academy was closed by the Islamic regime that overthrew the Shah in 1979 as part of its campaign to eradicate Western influences.

Prof. Igarashi, one of only a few noted Japanese Islamic scholars, was an outspoken critic of his government's Middle East policies, especially in the Gulf war.

He said the Japanese government had little interest in the Islamic World and accused foreign ministry officials of not even trying to understand the religious fervour of the Middle East.

The professor was found dead Friday morning in a corridor at Tsukuba University, 60 kilometres north east of Tokyo, where he taught Islamic studies. He had been stabbed several times.

Prof. Igarashi was the second Rushdie translator to be attacked in a fortnight. Ettore Capriolo, 61, who translated "The Satanic Verses" into Italian, was stabbed at his Milan flat on July 3.

Mr. Capriolo suffered cuts to the neck, arms and chest and was kicked and beaten on the head by a man who said he was an Iranian, police said.

The attacker had previously asked Mr. Capriolo for Mr. Rushdie's home address, which Mr. Capriolo said he did not

have.

Mr. Rushdie's 1988 book triggered widespread protest among Muslims who said it was blasphemous and insulted the Prophet Mohammad: Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued an order calling on Muslims to kill the Indian-born author.

Mr. Rushdie, who lives in Britain, has been in hiding under police guard ever since.

Prof. Igarashi undertook to translate "The Satanic Verses" even though big Japanese publishing houses refused to have anything to do with it.

"I accepted the translation of the novel because it had value as work of art," Prof. Igarashi said in a February 1990 interview after a small publisher eventually put the book on sale in Japan.

He was under police surveillance for his own safety, he said in the interview. "I'm getting tired these days because police are always asking me where I'm going," Prof. Igarashi said.

Prof. Igarashi's translation has sold about 70,000 copies, an official of the Shinsen-Sha publishing house said Friday. His firm had no plans to step up security, he said.

"Recently, there have been no threats at all," said the official, who asked not to be named. Protests and threat calls died down about one month after the book went on sale.

"We had expected some kind of trouble. But we are very sad that a person we had worked with passed away so suddenly," the official said.

Officials at Tsukuba, one of Japan's biggest state-run universities with 12,000 teachers, students and staff, said they were shocked at the campus murder, which occurred during the two-month summer holidays.

"I was really shocked that such a thing could happen inside our quiet campus," a university official said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 — 18:30 — Children's programme
18:30 — 19:00 — Documentary
19:00 — 19:15 — News in French
19:15 — 19:30 — News in Hebrew
19:30 — 20:00 — News in Arabic
20:00 — 21:00 — The Bill Cosby Show
21:00 — 22:00 — Encounter
22:00 — 22:30 — News in English
22:30 — 23:00 — Feature film

FEATHER TIMES

06:01 — Sunrise
05:34 — (Sunrise) Doha
12:41 — Doha
16:22 — Asir
19:08 — Maghreb
21:21 — Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish.
Tel. 810790
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Min./max. temp.
Amman — 20 / 33
Aqaba — 26 / 39
Deraa — 21 / 37
Jordan Valley — 24 / 38

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Food Control Centre — 637111
Civil Defence Department — 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Response — 630341

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Jamal Abu Baker — 746426
Dr. Tawfiq Qab'In — 623029
Dr. Adnan Zaghloul — 898140
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim — 891256
Fawcett pharmacy — 661912
Ferdows pharmacy — 778336
Al Asma pharmacy — 637055
Naioukh pharmacy — 626472
Al Salam pharmacy — 636730
Yaacoub pharmacy — 649445
Shimadzu pharmacy — 637660
IBRD:
Dr. Mahmoud Abul Hajja — (—)
Dr. Al Sharaa pharmacy — (279825)
ZARQA:
Dr. Nassef Amari — (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy — 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre — 637111
Civil Defence Department — 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Response — 630341

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre — 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn — 642816/15
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn — 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity — 642632
Mabius, J. Amman — 636140
Palestine, Shmeitan — 664111/14
Shmeitan Hospital — 669131
University Hospital — 771012
Al-Musharraf Hospital — 667277/79
The Islamic, Abdali — 666127

Seminar reviews role of human resources in an Islamic society

AMMAN — Participants in a seminar on "Development from an Islamic Perspective" discussed several working papers by prominent scholars dealing with human resources in an Islamic society.

One of the papers, by Abdul Hameed Al Ghazali, underlined the fact that human resources constituted the basis for development because "human beings can properly handle wealth and material resources on a balanced and comprehensive basis." The paper urged Muslims to be pious and to offer generously to the poor through the zakat (alms to the poor).

Another scholar, Dr. Majed Kheiri, presented a paper dealing with the habits of Muslims and their effect on development. The writer cited several social habits and said that economic development largely depended on the way people behaved and acted. In this sense, social and moral aspects have direct links with economic development, he said.

The writer also pointed out to the long periods of Western countries' domination of the Muslim World and said that it was during these periods that the West developed technology and improved its economy while the Islamic World remained backward, especially in technological fields.

Dr. Mahmoud Abdul Munem Afar read his paper, which focused on patterns of consumption, and cited a number of such patterns in the Islamic World.

The writer said that the Islamic World was overburdened by external foreign debts, "something that can be dealt with through adopting an Islamic economy."

According to Parliament member Issa Rimouni, Islamic unity has become essential under the present economic circumstances around the world. Mr. Rimouni said Muslims are now being asked to expand their markets and that "Islamic governments and organisations should help achieve that goal so that further economic interaction can be achieved among Islamic states."

Columnist Fahed Al Fanek, commenting on the ongoing seminar, which was organised in Amman by the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al Bayt Foundation) wondered whether Muslim scholars wanted the Muslim World to adopt a purely Islamic economy, different from the modern economics being taught to students in universities. He also asked whether the Muslim scholars wished to see the Islamic World adopt an economy totally separate from the modern economy of the world.

He said that even if Muslims wanted to do that they could never extricate their economy from the rest of the world's. "Neither can the Islamic banks succeed in functioning in total isolation from the world banking system," said Mr. Fanek.

The Al Ra'i columnist expressed hope that the participants in the seminar would draft a set of recommendations that could help the Muslim World launch specialised economic research programmes helping Muslims to catch up with the rest of the world.

GUVS holds seminar on reducing consumption

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Sunday will hold a seminar on reducing consumption and ways of protecting consumers. The seminar, held in cooperation with the Jordanian Society for the Protection of the Consumers, will discuss among other things the role of the voluntary sector in reducing consumption, the consumption patterns prevailing in Jordan and pricing and quality control policies. Taking part in the seminar will be most of the charities in the Kingdom, the Ministry of Supply, the Ministry of Health, the University of Jordan, the Jordanian Women's Federation as well as the Federation of Chambers of Industry and Commerce.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Ceramic exhibition by Margaret Tadros and Nasser Annab at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Embroidery exhibition at Jordan Intercontinental Hotel.
- ★ Exhibition of stamp collection at the philatelic club, Jabal Luvaidah.



NEWLY WEDS LEAVE ON HONEYMOON: Newlywed His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad bin Talal and his bride Princess Ghaida Hani Salam left Jordan Friday for an undisclosed location for their honeymoon. The wedding, which was held at Ragdan Palace, was attended by His Majesty King Hussein, Her Majesty Queen Noor, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad and Crown Prince Hassan along with princes and princesses and other members of the Royal family. Also present at the ceremony were senior government officials, high ranking army officers, heads of diplomatic missions, the Salam family members and other invited guests.

Libyan information minister praises relations with Jordan

TRIPOLI (Petra) — Libyan Information Minister Ali Abu Jazieh has praised Jordanian-Libyan relations describing them as fraternal, based on respect and mutual cooperation.

At a meeting with a Jordanian media delegation, Mr. Abu Jazieh said Jordanian-Libyan relations were developing in the interest of the peoples of both countries. He said his country was ready to further enhance ties with Jordan in all fields and without any limits, particularly in the area of culture and information.

He said he hoped to meet with Information and Culture Minister Khaled Al Karaki, either in Amman or in Tripoli to discuss scopes of cooperation in the field of information and culture. He said that large scopes of cooperation existed in such areas as ex-

change of news, radio and TV programmes, visits by media delegations and correspondents of the news agencies in both countries.

The minister said that Libyan markets were open to Jordanian products without limits or constraints, and pointed out that hundreds of Jordanian trucks cross the Egyptian borders to Libya as part of the exchange of products programme.

He added that his country was looking forward to holding agreements with Jordan on organising and enhancing such commercial exchanges.

The Jordanian delegation at the meeting comprised representatives of the Jordanian News Agency, Jordan Television and Broadcasting, Corporation and the daily and weekly newspapers.

Theatre festival winners honoured

By Vesna Masharqa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The first Jordanian theatre festival ended Wednesday at the Royal Cultural Centre in the presence of the Culture and Information Minister Khaled Al Karaki, minister's advisor Hani Snobar, Mrs. Leila Sharaf, a Senate member and the president of the festival's jury, the actors, artists, journalists and theatre goers.

Mr. Snobar, the president of the festival's supervising committee thanked all the participants for attaching importance to the event and presented the jury's evaluation of the performances. He expressed appreciation for the private sector which supported the festival financially and morally.

Mr. Snobar mentioned contributions by Mrs. Sharaf, Al Mashini family as well as a number of private companies and newspapers. The festival, he said, helped affirm the potential of the Jordanian theatre, distinguished outstanding talents and opened the door to new professional actors to assert themselves.



Dr. Karaki and Mrs. Sharaf handed the prizes to the contest winners.

The Honourable Prize Abdul Hameed Sharaf for directing was given to Director Khaled Al Taniffa for the play "The Wedding of the Weddings." The Ossama Al Mashini prizes were given for the best leading role to the actors Nasser Omar and Abdul Karim Kawasmi and actress Amal Dabbas.

Jordan Television and Jordan Radio rewarded the best male supporting role. It was

given to actors Esmat Farouq and Abdul Kamel Khalili.

The Jordanian Cinema and T.V. Production Company rewarded the best female supporting role, which was given to the actress Majd Al Qassas.

The Abdul Hameed Sharaf prizes for technical achievements (lighting, costumes, decoration, make-up) were granted to Nader Oumran.

The prize for the best script was not awarded with the explanation that the festival failed to give an original, creative and local text. The Petro-Chemical Industry Company will keep the reward for the next theatre festival.

At the closing ceremony of the festival, in the name of the culture minister, Dr. Snobar announced the foundation of the Jordanian National Theatre.

Jordan marks new Hijra year

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan, along with other Arab and Islamic countries, today celebrates the new Hijra year.

On the occasion, the Royal Court received a number of congratulatory cables for His Majesty King Hussein. Senders of the cables paid tribute to King Hussein for his continuing efforts to enhance Arab solidarity and unify its ranks.

They also praised the national and pan-Arab stands of the King and his call on the Arab Nation to solve its differences and unite in order to face future challenges and safeguard Arab and Muslim unity.

The cables expressed gratitude and appreciation for the King's wise leadership and for providing an atmosphere of democracy.

The cables were sent by Prime Minister Taher Masri; the speakers of the Upper and Lower

Houses of Parliament; the Chief Islamic Justice; the Armed Forces chief of staff; directors of the public security, civil defence and general intelligence departments; the deputy mayor of Amman and representatives of various unions and organisations.

On the occasion, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs will hold a religious ceremony in Amman after Al Asr prayers. Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Raef Najim will deliver a speech at the ceremony along with other Islamic scholars. The ministry has planned to hold similar ceremonies all over the Kingdom to mark the occasion.

In observance of the new Hijra year, all liquor stores, night clubs and bars are ordered closed Friday night and all day Saturday. Government departments and public institutions are also closed.

Statistics show heavy increase in crime rate

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 2,305 crimes were reported during last May, thus registering an increase of 382 crimes over May 1990 figures, according to a report issued by the Public Security Department (PSD).

The report, which is issued monthly, said that murders totalled 358, while minor crimes totalled 1,947. Thefts constituted 24.3 per cent of the total crimes, while those resulting in minor harm constituted 37.7 per cent of the total crimes.

The report noted that 81.4 per cent of the crimes committed during May were solved.

The report pointed out that Amman, where most of the crimes occurred, accounted for 965 crimes.

It was followed by Irbid with 509 crimes, Zarqa with 360 crimes, Balqa with 96 crimes, Aqaba with 89 crimes, Karak with 59 crimes, Badia with 65 crimes, Madaba with 49 crimes, Mafrak with 46 crimes, Tafilah with 24 and Maan with 43 crimes.

The report said that thefts totalled 561, including 285 in Amman, 106 in Irbid, 54 in Zarqa, 31 in Balqa, 2 in the Badia, 15 in Mafrak and 14 in Madaba. The

number of people involved in these thefts totalled 433 including 36 non-Jordanians, the report said.

It added that 49.4 per cent of those involved in the thefts were aged between 18, and 27 years, followed by those under 18, who accounted for 28.6 per cent. The report added that the percentage of unemployed people who were involved in these thefts was 34.9 per cent.

The report said school children accounted for 11.8 per cent of the total number of people involved in these crimes.

Five premeditated murders occurred last May compared to 10 committed in May 1990, the report said. These crimes were committed, either defending honour, for family feuds and differences or for revenge.

Fraud crimes totalled 40, of which 32 were solved, the report said.

The report also included seven successful suicides and 28 attempts. Suicide attempts were attributed to family differences, mental diseases, failure in examinations, financial problems or emotional setbacks.



Abdul Wahab Al Majali
Abdul Wahab Al Majali laid to rest

AMMAN (J.T.) — The body of Abdul Wahab Al Majali was laid to rest Friday in Al Yarout village in Karak Governorate.

His Majesty King Hussein was represented at the funeral by Chief Chamberlain Prince Raed Ben Zeid. The ceremony was attended by senior officials and a large crowd of mourners.

Mr. Majali, who died in Amman Thursday, had served in a number of prominent posts, including that of deputy prime minister, minister of education and member of parliament.

Mr. Majali was born in Karak in 1924 and completed his secondary studies in Salt and Karak. Later, he obtained a university degree in law from Damascus University and worked as a lawyer.

After the funeral, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan visited Al Majali family in Al Yarout village to offer his condolences.

Arab drug producers stress need for common market

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Assembly of the Arab Union of Producers of Medicine and Medical Supplies (AUPAM) Thursday held its annual meeting and discussed the Board of Director's annual report and its current work plan.

The board's report emphasised the need for implementing a recommendation to set up a common Arab drug market which was adopted during the union's third symposium.

The symposium was held in Amman earlier this year under the theme of "Towards a Common Arab Drug Market."

AUPAM is currently implementing the points of agreement made during that symposium. The practical implementation of such points of agreement, to take place in two years, is

designed to standardise the criteria in all Arab drug factories.

The assembly also discussed means of updating the Arab Drugs Directory, issued by AUPAM in 1990, and made preparations for introducing a standard Arab drug code. Other points of discussion at the meeting dealt with cooperation with similar unions and holding the union's fourth symposium in Amman in May 1992 under the theme "Transfer and Development of Drug Industries." The assembly also discussed the union's 1992 work plan.

AUPAM membership groups Jordan, Morocco, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Yemen, Iraq, Syria and Palestine as well as the Arab Company for Drug Industries and Medical Appliances (ACDIMA).

Murderer executed

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 22-year-old man was executed Thursday morning for stabbing Mohammad Saleh Jarrah to death as the victim was trying to protect his house during a robbery.

The murderer, Khaled Abdul Oudat Saoud, was hanged at Swaga prison in the presence of the prosecutor general and the judges of the criminal court.

According to a report in Al Ra'i the murderer was trying to enter one of the flats in Marj Al Hamam with an accomplice when he was surprised by some people entering the building. The report said that the robbers fled to the

roof by way of the staircase as Mr. Jarrah, the flat owner, headed for the door to open it.

Discovering that he could not do so because it had been tampered with, he asked two of his sons to go on the roof and fetch some tools. On the roof, the sons found the robbers who immediately tried to run away.

After chasing and catching up with them, one stabbed Mr. Jarrah in the chest with a switch knife, causing his immediate death.

The police later arrived and were able to apprehend the murderer and his accomplice.

MOURNING

Fatima and Ihsan Barnawi and the Nigerian Community in Jordan mourn with deep sorrow

the Nigerian victims of the plane crash

that took place near Jeddah on Thursday. May God bless their souls.

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Forward without inhibition

WITH THE law behind him and on his side, the prime minister, Mr. Taber Masri, could have governed for five or six months before submitting to a vote of confidence by the Lower House of Parliament. Instead, he has chosen to seek an immediate mandate from his colleagues in the House, putting to the test the popularity of his government and his own political future. What happens in Parliament during next week is crucial history in the making for Jordan, and upon it much of the political direction of the country will depend.

Through his government's policy statement to the House Thursday, Mr. Masri served notice that his government is not revolutionary, in the sense that it has not been formed to change the political equation at home, nor is it a cabinet intended for negotiations with Israel. "We are a continuation of previous administrations," he had told a group of journalists earlier. "We are not here to stage a coup d'etat against any political group(s) in the country nor to jump into peace negotiations with Israel."

Whether assurances like these or programmes as those contained in the policy statement can assuage the fears of the Muslim Brotherhood and convert the opposition in Parliament to his side is yet to be seen. What is already abundantly clear, however, is that there will be intense political debate and maybe even many compromises before he gains the confidence of the House and the whole country.

His Majesty King Hussein's letter of appointment to the prime minister on June 19 made it plain that the time had come for liberal democrats to lead, based on clearly defined progressive and forward-looking programmes. But while the prime minister and his cabinet colleagues were still working on their policy statement over the past two weeks indications were that the Masri team intended to incorporate language that would appease the right-wing opposition in a bid to win their parliamentary votes. As it turned out, this seems to be exactly what happened, despite assurances from government spokesmen that the Thursday statement truly reflected the cabinet's "honest and practical" vision without any attempt to appease the opposition. Examples are replete in the policy statement where the government could have been more forceful and forthcoming whether on the political front or over its domestic agenda. Ironically, though, it seems to have been Mr. Masri's left-wing partners who have been calling for appeasement of the conservative elements, to the extent of urging him to include them in the cabinet, the "mild" policy statement which defined the government as neither liberal nor conservative nor anything else.

It is probably too early to pass a judgement of this magnitude on Mr. Masri's government as indeed only time can tell where it is heading. Our concern is about clarity of vision, albeit under difficult circumstances as these, and the necessary courage to effect change where it is most needed. Our motivation and hope is to see Jordan make progress, and to witness progress being made without inhibition.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily has launched a bitter attack on the United States president for his call on the two parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict to offer concessions, calling such a move "An open invitation to the Israeli aggressors to hold on to the Arab lands." In his statement, President Bush had urged the Arabs and the Israelis to offer concessions, but this means that the Arabs have to give up their rights and stop demanding their lands back, the paper said. Such American policy does not differentiate between the aggressors and the victims or between those who are committed to the international legitimacy and those who reject it, said the paper. Mr. Bush's call on the Arabs to offer concessions so as to reach a settlement means a call on the Arab countries to give up part or all of their rights, the paper noted. It said that international legitimacy does not mean concessions or the giving up of territory so that a just settlement can be reached. International legitimacy and the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions constitute the basis for a settlement and not concessions on the part of the Arabs who are demanding their rights, the paper said. If the Arabs are to give up their rights, added the paper, they would be rewarding the Israelis for their aggression.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily called on representatives of Arab masses and organisations which held a general conference in Baghdad in May 1990, to voice support for Iraq and to take a speedy action to help end the current embargo on Iraq. Abdul Rahim Omar said that with every passing day the food and medicine situation in Iraq is further aggravated due to the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq despite the end of the Gulf war. The writer said that Iraq, the country which had supported all Arab countries in times of war and peace, is now in need of help so that its children and the sick will not die. The Americans are maintaining an embargo on Iraq and its people trying to starve them to death while Washington announces the lifting of an embargo on South Africa, the country that continues to exercise the racial policy of apartheid and violate its people's human rights, the writer pointed out. He said that the Americans are fighting the Iraqis with the Israeli hatred and are causing suffering to Iraqi children, women and old people. The Iraqi people, the writer said, need the help of their Arab brothers and the humanitarian organisations to end the embargo and save millions from death.

Masri: Government is committed to institutionalising democracy; Jordan policy on peace remains unchanged

The following is the text of the main body of Prime Minister Taber Masri's policy statement to Parliament Thursday; and below is a summary of the government's domestic policies in different fields.

MY colleagues and myself in this government are glad to present to you the government policy statement hoping that God may help us pursue the process of democracy for the benefit of the country and the Jordanian people.

By presenting this policy statement to Parliament the government hereby announces its total commitment to the constitution in word and in spirit and considers the National Charter the vision for its future and the country's future. The government strongly believes in integrity as a target and principle and declares its true commitment to the idea of the liberation of Jerusalem and in belonging to the nation and its immortal Islamic faith.

My government is honoured to submit to His Majesty the King the deepest gratitude and most sincere allegiance for his confidence in which we take pride. We pray that God may give us the power to implement the King's directives and help us achieve what is best and work towards the unity of the nation.

As the government embarks on its responsibilities, it realises that it is beginning its mandate in an atmosphere of freedom, amity and tolerance that prevails in the country and that democracy has become a daily practice as the people increase their determination to enhance their cohesion with the leadership and trust in the Jordanian constitution, defending the gains at a time when the country faces difficult challenges but remains true and committed to the goal of liberating Palestine and to Jordan being free of tutelage despite the hardships.

As the government presents its policy statement to you, it reaffirms its keenness on maintaining close cooperation with Parliament, realising that the seriousness of responsibilities in the current stage requires constant consultations and an exchange of views for the benefit of the people and nation.

Honourable Deputies,

The government's policy includes its orientation on the domestic and external fronts and its plans for confronting problems resulting from international developments and events and changes in the Arab arena as well as in Jordan. The government based its views and plans on the principles of the Jordanian constitution and the National Charter which outlines the course of the government's future actions in various fields. Our policies and plans are also based on the directives of the King as set in his letter of appointment, which defined the responsibilities at this stage. These directives deal with the need to enhance national unity, promote the process of democracy and to deepen and expand interaction of political pluralism in the decision-making process on the basis of respecting others' views.

In order to achieve these objectives, the government plans to enhance the concept of the state of law, respect for all citizens' rights, support for the principle of legal separation among the various authorities and enhancing cohesion among the people based on Arab and Islamic values with open mindedness to the spirit of the modern age and its requirements and with true commitment and responsible commitment towards the nation.

This government is determined to enhance democracy based on political pluralism and will seek to enhance the concept of the supremacy of the law. For this reason there will be need for enacting new legislations related to constitutional freedoms, like political parties and press and publication laws. For this to happen, and until the whole picture has been completed, I am glad to convey to you that my government has embarked on measures designed to end martial rule as has been demanded by Parliament and the people.

I hope that Parliament will give this matter priority and enact laws that will fill the legislative gap in certain cases which are not dealt with by the civil courts. Once such legislations have been enacted, martial law will completely be ended. Furthermore, the government has started examining cases of people convicted for political reasons prior to taking appropriate decisions.

Honourable Deputies,

Challenges facing the government like unemployment, the

soaring cost of living, water problems and environment problems all require real cooperation on the part of the executive and legislative authorities so as to create an opportune climate to face these issues through well-defined plans and scientific programmes and in order to find financial resources for them.

I must point out here that the country is still facing financial difficulties and that these difficulties were aggravated by the negative consequences of the Gulf war, the resulting inter-Arab relation and their negative impact on social, political and economic life in Jordan, a country which continues to shoulder its national commitments in facing Israel's aggression and the on-going pressures on our scarce resources.

This government realises the need for defending the nation and protecting its internal and external security and for this reason it can only voice its pride in the role of the Armed Forces and its keenness on making available all means required for its strength to remain a true shield defending the nation and guaranteeing its independence.

The Armed Forces will remain the vanguard of all Arab forces in the process of liberating the occupied territories and undertaking all other duties to ensure security and peace for the Arab Nation. The government is also keen on maintaining a solid internal front which can be enhanced through stability, the supremacy of law and order, the protection of all citizens and their property, dignity and freedom within confines of the constitution and in an atmosphere characterised by mutual confidence between the security services and members of the public.

As the judiciary is one of the three independent pillars of democracy, the government stresses its absolute keenness on respecting its functions and promoting its work now that the measures have already been taken to repeal the martial law. The judicial system is now in need to be developed with new expertise and specialisation especially in delicate and technical issues, something which requires further training and modernisation of procedures. The government, realising the huge task required of the judiciary and the grave responsibilities awaiting it, pledges to back the judiciary and its various courts by providing the required skilled and qualified staff.

Honourable Deputies,

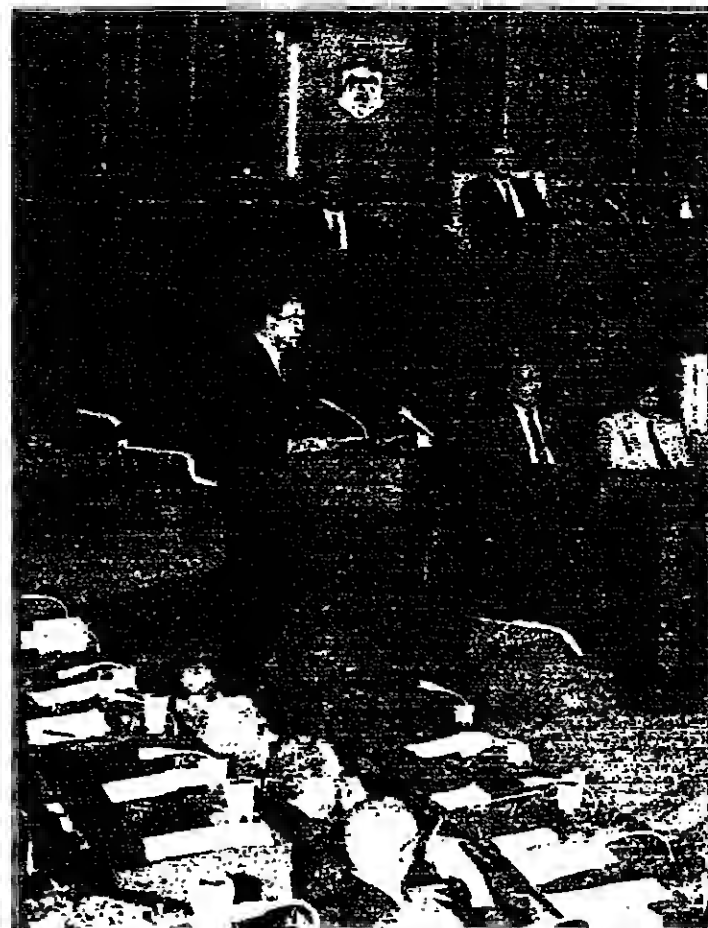
The mere talking of development and further achievements will remain mere slogans unless the country possess the real means for implementation with the least possible cost and the shortest time. Since availability of financial resources is not sufficient, the government will lay stress on the skilled and qualified personnel which can attain the required objectives through better utilisation of available means. The government realises that the public administration requires constant improvement and modernisation but also realises the difficulties and hardships facing the country under the present circumstances.

The government realises the complications of government routine and the weakness in public administration performance and, therefore, it will give this issue due care to boost public administration performance. This will affect the reclassification of public posts and job description methods. It will also reorganise the control and inspection systems, embark on a national data system and carry out training programmes for human resources so as to meet the requirements of the Jordanian labour market that requires graduates of colleges and universities.

The government programme also includes improvements and reforms to those organisational units responsible for upgrading public administration. The government will examine the prospect of enhancing the local government role and should this prove viable it will embark on the decentralisation process through developing administrative units in the provinces.

Honourable gentlemen,

Jordan is located in the heart of the Arab region and the Palestine problem remains on the top of its



Mr. Taber Masri reads his government policy statement in Parliament Thursday (photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

priorities and concerns because it is not only the problem of a brotherly state but rather a national cause. Jordan is the most affected country by this problem, negatively or positively, and as the Palestinians and Jordanians are twins we feel that whatever affects the Palestinians affects Jordanians too.

We do not have to reaffirm these facts which have been established over the past decades. These are firm principles from which the Kingdom has never deviated. Jordan has always demanded the application of the international legitimacy to the Palestine question with the hope of ending Israel's occupation of Arab Palestinian land and reaching a just and honourable solution for the Palestine problem, one that can guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people including their right to self-determination in their national homeland.

Jordan will not abandon any Palestinian or Arab right and will never act as a substitute for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Jordan welcomes any international effort that can serve this objective and regards the PLO's participation in achieving such objective as vital because it is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The Palestinian dimension can never be overlooked in any settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jordan also is for coordinating its plans with the PLO in a manner that would end the sufferings of the Palestinian people and enhance their heroic stand.

Government policies in different domestic fields

IN his statement, Mr. Masri referred to the national economy which, he said, has responded as best as expected to the negative effects of the Gulf crisis.

The prime minister summarised the difficulties and the challenges as follows:

1. Resuming sustainable economic growth, facing political and economic upheavals, mobilising self-potentials, utilising energy resources, directing savings towards production and integrating the national economy with world economy.

2. Curtailing unemployment by dealing with its causes, encouraging investments in projects to create jobs.

3. Tackling the question of poverty through improving the living standards of the people and providing better basic services to all classes and groups.

4. Absorbing the returning expatriates.

The prime minister said that only through an opportune climate can investment be encouraged. The government is determined to deal with internal and external imbalances through the following steps:

1. Reducing excessive consumption.
2. Minimising the deficit in the balance of payments.

3. Reducing the margin of deficit in the fiscal budget.

Mr. Masri proposed a comprehensive national plan for creating an opportune and healthy climate for investments, supporting pro-

duction sectors, increasing interaction with the world community, especially Arab and Islamic organisations, expanding the mining sector, providing basic services and commodities at present level, providing technical services to boost exports, improving the infrastructure and its services, supporting the Central Bank of Jordan and the banking system, adopting financial policies that would ensure economic and social growth and reducing Jordan's external debts.

Mr. Masri referred to the questions of unemployment and poverty in Jordan and said they constituted a major challenge to the Jordanian society. Unemployment is connected directly to the educational system and the requirements of the country's development and its need of workers, the prime minister said. He said that the government plans to find solutions to the problem by stimulating the economy, reorganising the administrative system, and through other measures like increasing production, stimulating investment, boosting the role of the Employment and Development Fund and intensifying vocational training courses.

The government will also enact new regulations for the Ministry of Labour's functions, increase contacts with other countries to open the way for Jordanian workers, reorganise the presence of foreign workers, and reexamine the educational system in relation to the local labour market.

The prime minister said that the government will speed up the implementation of projects as contained in the fiscal budget for 1991, will increase capital expenditure for 1992 by 10 per cent in terms of the gross national product, will concentrate on implementing medium and small-size projects and will make available sufficient allocations for social services.

With regard to agricultural and water resources, the government plans to exert all its efforts to deal with these problems that had been plaguing them lately. The government, the prime minister said, will address the question of water shortage, water pollution, debts on small farmers and marketing of agricultural produce.

The prime minister said that the government plans to work out a national agricultural strategy aimed at creating a proper climate for farming and developing water resources to expand production. This strategy entails the use of modern technology, expanding pasture lands and boosting agricultural exports, the prime minister added.

He said that the government will strive to open new markets abroad and deal with diseases affecting agriculture and it will also unify the sources of agricultural loans and reschedule farmers' debts. Furthermore, the prime minister said the government hopes to boost the work of the cooperative societies which can provide inputs at reasonable prices and offer veterinary and agricultural extension services.

Water is a major problem that impedes the country's socio-economic development, the prime minister said. For this reason the government, in cooperation with Arab states will try to utilise common water resources and will draw up a comprehensive strategy for the coming two decades.

To implement such policies, he said, the government plans to conduct studies on the country's water potential, will build dams, define priorities for water usage and develop water management systems.

Referring to the water pollution problem, Mr. Masri said that the government has already taken measures to determine the water pollutants with special attention to the Zarqa River and the King Talal Dam.

Mr. Masri also tackled the questions of industry, mining, energy, tourism, transport, housing, supply, health, social development, municipal and rural affairs, absorption of returnees from the Gulf, Awqaf and Islamic affairs, education, higher education, culture, information and youth.

With reference to energy, the prime minister said that due attention will be given to oil and gas explorations. The government plans to establish a national company to conduct oil prospecting in cooperation with Arab and foreign companies and will increase its use of natural gas to produce electricity, the prime minister added.

He said that plans for finding alternative sources of energy will continue with special attention to be given to the exploitation of oil shale and solar and wind energy.

In tourism, the government plans to create an appropriate climate for investments in hotels so as to attract tourists and will pursue efforts for the restoration of archaeological sites, the prime minister said.

In transport, the government will develop Aqaba Port to boost its capacity, give due attention to the network of internal roads and agricultural roads and study the prospect of building a railway to link the phosphate mines of Shidiyah with Aqaba, he said.

Referring to health, Mr. Masri said the government will be fair and just in the distribution of health services to all governorates. It will improve the work of hospitals and health centres in the rural and badia regions and will pave the way for the introduction of a comprehensive health insurance scheme benefiting all citizens, the prime minister pointed out.

He said that plans for giving training to health staff at hospitals and the health centres will be implemented and financial and other incentives will be introduced to improve services. The availability of medicine at reasonable prices will be maintained and pharmaceutical production will be encouraged, the prime minister added.

Education is considered a

national priority in social development and the government will pave the way for the last decade in this century to become a decade of educational reform, Mr. Masri told Parliament.

But, he said, that special attention will be given to the type and nature of education and its suitability to the local, regional and international developments and needs. The government, he noted, will base educational policies on the Jordanian Constitution, the National Charter and the educational law as well as the directives in the Royal letter of appointment and the resolutions of the first national educational conference.

He said that the government will go ahead with plans to revise textbooks and will give special attention to talented students, laboratories and school libraries and vocational workshops. It will also develop televised educational programmes and give due attention to the development of teachers' efficiency and methods of teaching and will implement plans of building modern schools to meet the expected expansion in education.

With regard to higher education, the prime minister said the government will do all it could to preserve the independence of higher educational institutions and will help develop these institutions so as to meet the real needs of the country. The prime minister said the government will help Muta University to complete the construction of its various civilian wing buildings and will make available all the requirements for establishing Zarqa University.

He said that the government will promote scientific research to meet the Kingdom's needs of qualified personnel and will introduce control measures and regulations to govern the performance of private universities and community colleges to ensure their best educational services to the public.

Referring to information, Mr. Masri said that his government will encourage the media to convey the best image about Jordan to the outside world. He said that the government will reaffirm the role of information in defending Arab and Islamic causes and promote the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the face of the Zionist invasion.

Mr. Masri said that Jordan is going through very difficult and extraordinary circumstances resulting from the Israeli occupation and the forced migration of people in addition to the movement of people from rural and badia regions to the urban centres seeking jobs. This, he said, has resulted in an imbalance in the distribution of population and is obstructing the implementation of socio-economic projects.

Mr. Masri said that the government will give this issue due consideration and will deal with the migration to urban cities by directing attention to investments of various resources in all regions alike and to encourage people to stay and exploit their lands and other resources.

The government plans to work out a national agricultural strategy aimed at creating a proper climate for farming and developing water resources to expand production.

The prime minister noted that the southern regions of Jordan constitute the Kingdom's natural wealth and, yet these regions are plagued with poverty and unemployment. The government will embark on development projects in the southern and eastern badia regions designed to end unemployment and poverty, the prime minister said. He said this can be done by initiating socio-economic activities and promoting vocational training programmes.

The prime minister concluded his government's policy statement by pledging full cooperation with Parliament. He said that government realises the magnitude of problems facing the Kingdom and realises the grave responsibilities on the domestic and external fronts and it is keen on dealing with the economic difficulties and problems and on halting further deterioration.

He said that the government cannot make miracles but can work closely and with added determination with Parliament to safeguard national interests and enhance democracy.

Policy statement unlikely to be crucial factor

(Continued from page 1)

same terms as those envisaged for it by the King's letter of appointment, the minister said. "The government's mission is to be one of continuing the democratic process, and not to be the beginning of a new era in Jordan."

"This government's mandate is not to start a new political era in the country. We are a continuation of those governments which started and worked on the democratisation process," said one of them. "We are not revolutionaries; we simply want to build on and strengthen what has been achieved already in the way of democratic legislation and practices."

"Based on this," a former cabinet minister said, "my perception of this government has changed from that of it being

a truly liberal and progressive government heralding a new historic period to it constituting another link in the phase of democracy before a new era is launched."

"I am not saying that this is wrong, I am saying that we might have given this government a role it did not want for itself," he explained.

He added that the King's letter of appointment to Mr. Masri contained a vision that indicated that this government may be a historical government which would be the launching point of a new era in Jordan.

"Now it seems that this government is finalising our shift into democracy before a new era begins," he said.

Other "liberal" observers pointed out that this government failed to underline the point of

separation between it and the two governments before it (Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker's and Mr. Mudar Badran's), which they considered necessary to explain what warranted a change of government in the first place.

However, the cabinet ministers, while conceding that their government is a continuation of those before it politically, stress that their achievements on the democratic front during the past two weeks indicate the extent of their determination to translate headlines even in those sectors which were initiated by the governments of Sharif Zaid and Mr. Badran.

The deputies are expected to begin responding to Mr. Masri's programme on Tuesday, and although it is too early to judge the outcome, observers say that the cabinet can win the needed

majority.

The government, according to the law, wins a vote of confidence unless 41 members of the 80-member Lower House vote against it. Abstentions are considered votes in its favour.

Although there is no system which governs the response of deputies during the confidence session, observers expect that most, if not all, deputies will want to present their separate comments which might mean long days of speeches similar to those witnessed when Mr. Badran was presenting his government for confidence at the end of 1989.

Consultations among parliamentary groups and individual deputies were continuing Friday and are expected to pick up momentum in the next few days. The result, according to observers, is still too close to call.

This week in print

Writers defend government, Iraq and the Palestinians

Jordanian newspapers last week focused most attention on the new government of Prime Minister Taher Masri. Washington's threats against Iraq, the Middle East issue and domestic problems.

The meaningless debate about matters related to the constitution resolved no problem and the deputies ought to have placed the national interests and not their selfish ones above all other considerations.

people. The U.S. is trying to impose subjugation on the Arabs by crushing the voice of Iraq and dealing a severe blow to the Arab national cause, said the writer.

by several writers in the daily press last week. Hamedeh Faraaneh, who writes for Al Dustour, said with the onslaught on the Palestinians in Lebanon and Kuwait one could only conclude that the Arab World and Israel are joining hands in the process of slaughtering the Palestinians. The writer expressed belief that the move was to serve Israel's ambition of abrogating the uprising of the Palestinian people.

The new government's drive to end martial law in the country deserves appreciation and gratitude and not a hostile attitude as displayed by many parliament members in the first session, said Mohammad Najj Amaireh, a columnist with Al Ra'i daily.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the present parliament's extraordinary session was of paramount importance because the representatives of the people wanted to discuss the press and publication law and the questions of political parties -- important issues for all citizens and for political groups. Abdul Majeed Nuseir said however, that the executive and legislative authorities should agree on an amendment to the Jordanian constitution by which parliament should be convened only on the year round in ordinary session with only official public holidays as a recess.

Mr. Abul Banderah's views were strongly echoed by Al Ra'i's Abdul Rahim Omar. The war against Iraq led by the United States is still on at a time when the world at large keeps silent about the on-going insults the U.S. levels against the international community. Mr. Omar said, Israel has succeeded in driving the American military power to crush Iraq, aided by 29 other countries, including eight Arab states. But Israel's malice knows no end, Mr. Omar said. He stressed that Zionists were pressuring Washington and hatching plots worldwide against Iraq and its people.

Mr. Faraaneh's views were echoed by Mousa Al Abdullat also in Al Dustour. Mr. Abdullat said that a defined programme is being implemented against the Palestinians in Kuwait and Lebanon as well as in the occupied Arab territories in the wake of the crushing of Iraq's military power by the U.S.-led alliance. The writer said that the Kuwaitis in particular were finding vent for their failures through repressing the innocent Palestinians who are now being evicted from the emirate. This is not only a violation of all human rights but rather of all international principles, said the writer.

Mr. Amaireh noted that the abolition of martial law was demanded by the deputies themselves, a step for which the government deserved applause not opposition. We do not want our deputies in parliament to become yes men, backing the government in all its moves, but such a constructive step on the part of the government deserved full support, said the columnist.

He said unless that happens various draft laws and many issues will accumulate and it would be impossible to deal with all of them through two sessions a year.

On Iraq causing the death of thousands of Iraqis, which means that the war has not ended and those countries which supported the embargo were actual accomplices in the murder of the innocent civilians.

Turoing to domestic issues, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that preaching people through the radio, television and the press on means for protecting the environment or rationalising the use of water can achieve nothing. Tareq Masarweh said that the country needed practical policies and to follow the example of other countries which had faced similar problems. We are fooling ourselves by holding on to the idea of offering free education at a time when we see that the education level is deteriorating year after year. We are deceiving ourselves when we say that medical treatment is open to all when we realise that medical standards are declining and we cannot maintain such services, said the writer.

Mr. Amaireh's view were supported by Sultan Harab, another columnist in Al Ra'i daily, who said that with the abolition of the martial law nothing should stop Jordan from pursuing the full meaning of democracy. The columnist said that the move, accompanied with the decision to release all political prisoners, had paved the way for real confidence in the government.

He said that had the government started its mission with a negative note, we would have supported those deputies who levelled criticism against it, but now that all positive and constructive steps had been taken there was no justification for the representatives of the people to deny the new government their confidence.

It is rather regrettable to hear unfounded rumours and words expressing dismay upon the formation of any government without studying its plans and programme, said a guest columnist in Al Dustour. Mithail Jumeian said with the inclusion of young ministers in his cabinet and by embarking on his task with very constructive steps, Mr. Masri deserved all respect and appreciation.

Mr. Jumeian said that the domestic issues, the new government had pledged to tackle, and the established Jordanian position regarding the Middle East question which the prime minister promised to adhere to, should earn the new government leader all support from parliament.

No one denies that the deputies who opposed the government's plans have the right to demand that pressing issues not be included in the agenda of the parliament's extraordinary session, said Mohammad Ibrahim Daoud in Al Dustour. The columnist said that there were very pressing issues that needed addressing but the public was dismayed at the hostile attitude displayed by parliament members towards the new government. He said that

U.S. threats against Iraq were tackled by several columnists in the daily press, accusing the U.S. of preparing for another aggression on that Arab state.

Israel exercises pressure on George Bush in matters related to the Palestine question while Mr. Bush tries to escape from this pressure by directing world public attention to Iraq against which he persistently launches one threat after another, said Mustafa Abu Libdeh in Sawt Al Shaab. As the Zionists hear Secretary of State James Baker and other U.S. administration officials talking about a peace conference, they unleash questions related to the coming presidential elections in the U.S. and hint about Mr. Bush's involvement in secret contacts with Iran before the release of American hostages in Tehran in 1980, said the columnist.

This sort of blackmail exercised on the Bush administration drives it to turn its attention towards Iraq, threatening that country with new aggression under false pretexts simply because Mr. Bush wants to win the next presidential election, the writer added.

Ismail Abul Banderah, who writes for Sawt Al Shaab, said that the U.S. devastated Iraq's socio-economic infrastructure and was now launching a campaign to pave the ground for another aggression on the Iraqi people.

Washington deceived the Arabs by promising them solutions for the Middle East and the Palestine problems once the Gulf war has ended, said Tareq Masarweh in Al Ra'i. Now that the war has ended, nothing is being done to the Middle East issues and the international legitimacy which Washington promised to implement has not materialised.

The writer directed attention to the fact that the Gulf war brought about no solution at all, but further aggravated the situation and brought more sufferings to the Palestinians.

The atrocities committed by Israel and Kuwait against the Palestinian people was tackled

U.N. team to recommend easing of sanctions

(Continued from page 1)

hunger and epidemics," he said. "We can say with absolute clarity that the situation will get worse and dramatically so," he said.

Prince Sadruddin said the U.N. and its agencies would find it very difficult "to sustain over a very long period of time the emergency programme which we are running at the present time."

Prince Sadruddin, heading a team which has travelled all over Iraq over the past two weeks, said some formula had to be found to enable Iraq to use its own money to pay for such supplies.

"It hinges on the possibility of keeping track at different points in time of the purchasing and delivery process," he said.

He said Iraq needed \$2 billion

a year in hard currency to feed 70 per cent of its population before the Gulf war.

Prince Sadruddin and senior members of his team said shortages of food had sent prices skyrocketing on the open market. "The signs of impending famine were noted around the country," said Sir John, a former British ambassador to Iraq.

Former U.S. Attorney General Elliot Richardson spoke of soaring inflation and said government rations provided only one third of the nutritional needs of the average family.

"One result of that has been that people have been drawing on other assets. Women have been selling jewellery," Prince Sadruddin painted a similar picture of deprivation.

"Prices have skyrocketed and it's virtually impossible for the ordinary citizen to get extra food because it's way beyond his purchasing power."

The Security Council has linked any general lifting of sanctions to Iraqi compliance with the terms of the ceasefire that followed the Gulf war.

U.N. Sanctions Committee Chairman Peter Hohenfeller, explaining Thursday's postponement of Iraq's request to sell oil, said members were waiting for Prince Sadruddin's report.

Prince Sadruddin said a distinction should be drawn between political considerations and humanitarian needs.

"The bottom line is that sanctions were never designed to make the people of Iraq suffer."

Eyskens restates warning

(Continued from page 1)

Trade Association (EFTA). A third of Israeli exports go to EC countries.

Mr. Shamir told Mr. Eyskens that he would accept a European role in proposed Arab-Israeli peace talks provided Europe took "a balanced position."

Mr. Shamir told Mr. Eyskens that EC participation depended on Europe showing "a balanced position towards both sides of the conflict," a communique from Mr. Shamir's office said.

According to the statement, Mr. Shamir told Eyskens Israel could reach an agreement with Jordan and find an interim solution with the Palestinians by offering them autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Eyskens was also scheduled to meet Defence Minister Moshe Arens and opposition Labour Party leader Shimon Peres.

59 wounded

(Continued from page 1)

fully loaded with ammunition at the depot in the event of war.

About four MI-A1 tanks each costing \$2.7 million were lost during the 43-day war.

The ammunition, stored on pallets in a large open-air compound, included tank rounds, artillery and bullets, officers said.

A military source in Washington said the explosion, also claimed eight bowtizers costing \$1.5 million each.

Kuwait to expel 50,000

(Continued from page 1)

into the country and Jordan has said that it would not allow entry

to anyone other than holders of Jordanian documents without firm guarantees that they will leave the Kingdom within a reasonable period of time.

Prayers held

(Continued from page 1)

Officials at Natianair, the Montreal-based firm that owned the plane, said it was carrying 250 passengers and a crew of 14.

Areen staff said they had no information about when investigations into the crash would be completed, and bodies of the victims shipped home.

For Muslims, to be buried in Mecca is considered a great honour, and Saudi authorities have usually conceded to such wishes in previous disasters.

Areen staff said that bodies of the crew members were expected to be handed over to diplomats from the corresponding missions.

Men and women wailed and wept when officials at Lagos airport in the Nigerian capital were unable to give them the names of the people killed. About 10,000 Nigerians had gone to Saudi Arabia for the Hajj, the Nigerian government said.

The Nigerian government said all the pilgrims aboard the plane came from Sokoto state, the heartland of Muslim-dominated northern Nigeria.

Talabani Talks 'excellent'

(Continued from page 1)

month's difficulties had been resolved.

He and other members of the Kurdistan Front had said the previous agreement negotiated by Mr. Barzani included too little land in an autonomous Kurdistan and has unacceptable preconditions, linking the Kurds to the ruling Baath Party in Baghdad.

The failed pact also reportedly included a secret agreement to cut off ties with the West.

Mr. Barzani said outstanding issues included the size of the future autonomous Kurdish area and provisions in a draft multi-party law allowing the Baath Party to campaign within the armed forces and the security forces.

Bush approves list of targets

(Continued from page 1)

Iraqi authorities had previously blocked U.N. inspectors from examining suspected nuclear sites. In one case, shots were fired over the heads of the U.N. team.

Administration officials Friday declined to confirm published reports that Iraq had subsequently buried World War II vintage caltrops, which were seen by the international inspectors. The equipment is used to make nuclear weapons.

"What (Iraq) is doing is intolerable," U.S. National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft said. "I think it's important that (Iraq) get back in compliance with the U.N. resolutions" requiring Baghdad to renounce weapons of mass destruction.

In addition to the military target list, Iraq faces pressure from a new allied force being formed in Turkey to make sure that it does not launch attacks against Kurds in Iraq.

France, Italy, Turkey, Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands would allow several thousand U.S. and allied troops now in northern Iraq to be withdrawn.

The Pentagon announced Friday that the last of the allied forces sent to northern Iraq to protect Kurds there are now withdrawing and will be removed completely by July 15.

"By July 15, coalition forces will be out of northern Iraq. Redeployment starts today (Friday)," Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams told a news briefing.

Mr. Williams also said the allies had warned Iraq that they "maintain a clear interest in peace within Iraq" and reserve the right to enforce peace militarily if necessary through an allied strike force that will be organised in Turkey.

Mr. Williams said he had no immediate details on the size or composition of the allied strike force.

"The coalition retains a clear interest in peace within Iraq and is willing to respond militarily to Iraqi actions that disturb the peace," Williams said.

"Second, no Iraqi aircraft, fixed or rotary-wing should fly north of the 36th parallel," which defines the area where Iraqi Kurds are concentrated, the spokesman said.

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Turks stripped of medals for drug use at Med. Games

ATHENS (AP) — Two Turkish weightlifters have been stripped of their gold medals at the Mediterranean Games for using banned drugs and could face lifetime suspensions from international competition.

Ali Eroglu tested positive for the anabolic steroid methandienone, said Claude Collard, head of the International Committee for the Mediterranean Games. He said Sunay Bulut was found to have used the stimulant ephedrine in a larger dose than allowed.

Eroglu won in the 90-kilogram category and Bulut won in the 82.5-kilogram category.

The Turkish Weightlifting Federation has suspended Eroglu for life, and Bulut's case is pending, Turkish officials said.

Their cases will be examined by the International Weightlifting Federation, Collard said. They could be suspended for life.

The weightlifters failed required urine tests several days after they competed. They were stripped of their medals after they

failed a second test.

Turkish weightlifting officials had returned home and were not available for comment.

Eroglu won two gold medals and a bronze. His gold medal in the combined event will go to Sarwat Bindary of Egypt. His gold in the snatch and bronze in the clean and jerk will be awarded to Hassan Kassi of Lebanon.

Bulut won three gold medals. The medal for the combined event will go to the clean and jerk will go to Juan Carlos of Spain, and in the snatch to Rafael Mancino of Italy.

Meanwhile, with only one more day to go, Italy continued its domination of the 11th Mediterranean Games Thursday by garnering medals in nearly all competitions.

The games are to end with a soccer match between traditional rivals Greece and Turkey. The final event is expected to attract large crowds and police have taken extra security measures for the game and closing ceremony.

3 lead Tour de France in one day

LE HAVRE, France (AP) — The Tour de France lead changed three times in one day for the second time this year. Ironically, it involved the same three riders.

Thierry Marie, Greg Lemond and Rolf Sorensen all were leaders of the race Thursday as it went through a 161-mile (259-kilometres) leg from Arras in northern France to this port city. Marie ended up in first after the sixth stage by staging a long breakaway. He built up a 22-minute margin that was shaved to less than two minutes at the end.

Sorensen, who led since Sunday, was the overnight leader from Wednesday to Thursday

morning. However, as expected, he did not start after breaking his collarbone in a fall in the fifth stage.

That gave Lemond the lead as the riders set out for the day's journey, though he refused to wear the leader's yellow jersey out of respect for Sorensen.

The day ended with Marie in the overall lead.

Marie now has a 64-second advantage over Ireland's Sean Kelly. Lemond is tied with Soviet sprint specialist Djamolidine Abdoujaplov, another three seconds back.

Last Sunday, Marie started the day in front after winning Satur-

The tiny Mediterranean island of Cyprus won its first gold medal Thursday with Marios Hadjian-dreou breaking the Mediterranean record in the triple jump. He leaped 17.13 metres, 23 centimetres more than the 16.90 set in 1979.

Three other Med. records were also broken in athletic events, the most on any one day of this competition.

Italy brought its total medal count up to 168. It now has 67 gold medals, 49 silver and 52 bronze. France follows with 48 gold medals, 57 silver and 34 bronze.

France set a new Mediterranean record of 3:31.00 in the 4 by 400 women's event. The old record was 3:32.14, set in 1987 in Latakia, Syria.

The Italian team set a new Med. record of 3:03.20 in the men's 4 by 400, just breaking the 1979 record of 3:03.70. Othmane Beifaa of Algeria broke the world jump record by leaping 2.28 metres, 2 centimetres higher than the 1983 record.



Monica Seles

Seles mystery may be resolved next week

THE MONICA mystery may not be resolved until next week.

That's the word from Gerard Smith, the executive director of the Women's Tennis Association. He's been trying to arrange a meeting with Seles since she withdrew from Wimbledon because of a "minor accident."

"It's currently being arranged," Smith said Thursday. "She knows I want to speak with her, and I believe she is anxious to speak with me to resolve the matter."

Since withdrawing from Wimbledon three days before the tournament, which began June 24, the 17-year-old Seles has gone into virtual hiding, declining to step forward and explain why she pulled out of the Grand Slam event.

Reports of why she backed out varied. They ranged from Seles being involved in a minor car crash to shin splints to one British tabloid that speculated she was pregnant. There were even reports that she stayed away from Wimbledon in order to maintain her No. 1 ranking for a full year and earn bonus money from her racket sponsor Yonex.

The WTA fined Seles \$6,000 when she withdrew.

Smith said his conversation with Seles, who won the first two Grand Slam events — the Australian and French Opens — would go beyond the Wimbledon affair.

"There are other things on my mind," Smith said. "I have a long list of things that I periodically discuss with the top players. I had hoped to have dinner with her at Wimbledon."

There have been several Seles sightings in Florida, where she surfaced briefly at Donald Trump's Palm Beach estate Mar-A-Lago. There also was a photograph in Newsweek showing Seles wearing a wig and leaving a limousine.

Seles is scheduled to play next week in a tournament in Mahwah, New Jersey, an appearance that tournament officials say has been confirmed by her representatives.

Jordan to take part in Olympic basketball trials

By Ahmed Ismail

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian Basketball Federation (JBF) has received the confirmation from the Asian organising committee to take part in the Asian preliminaries for the Olympic Games to be held in Japan next September.

Isa Amari, the JBF secretary general, told the Jordan Times that the Asian Basketball Federation (ABF) asked that the final list of the Jordanian team be sent before the draw is held Saturday.

He added that the JBF held an extraordinary meeting to review preparations of the team and select the final list of players for the preliminaries.

JBF sources told the Jordan Times that another meeting will be held to evaluate the national team's training programme and discuss the possibility of nominating a new coach to replace the national trainer, Razaq Al Masri.

It is generally predicted that the new coach will be the American Robert Taylor, who led the Jordanian national team to the gold medal in the Pan-Arab Games held in Morocco six years ago by beating the Iraqi team in the final.

The American has coached the Egyptian Al Jazereh Club and led them to the Egyptian Cup title. His contract with them recently expired. With the former Jordanian team, Taylor has gone back to the basics of the game and helped them build skills that other Arab and Asian players have mastered.

The Jordanian team will be composed of Murad Barakat, Hilal Barakat, Muntassir Abu Al Taieb, Jihad Sleba, Asim Al Samman, Samir Marqas, Walid Badran, Nasir Abu Shanab, Marwan Maatag, Yousef Zaqul, Marwan Al Saidi and Abdul Latif Abu Qura.

Local Sports Briefs

Al Ramtha to leave on July 18

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Ramtha Sporting Club will leave for Bangladesh on July 18 to take part in the 10th Asian clubs tournaments due to start on July 19. Al Ramtha's delegation consists of two trainers Mr. Saad Hamza, the former trainer of Iraqi Olympic team and his assistant Abdul Majed Samara, and 18 players selected in view of their performance in Premier League and Jordanian Cup matches. Al Ramtha has secured its position in the season, after beating Al Qadisiya 5-1 Wednesday and qualified to the 4th round of soccer cup after three successive wins. In Bangladesh, the Jordanian team is expected to meet clubs from Oman, China and Indonesia.

JFA to hold soccer training course

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Football Association (JFA) will organise an international soccer training course next month. Mohammad Bazdouq, the JFA secretary general, told the Jordan Times that the course will deal with training programmes aiming at developing the capabilities of local trainers and shed lights on the regulations of the game. He added that another course for the premier and second division referees will be held also next month to acquaint them with the new modifications of the laws drafted by the Federal International Football Association (FIFA).

Jordanian to take part in Berlin race

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Athletics Federation (JAF) named Ahmad Al Hamsari, the Jordanian long-distance runner, to compete in the Berlin Marathon which will be held in August. Mr. Yasin Al Jelani, the JAF's vice president, told the Jordan Times that Al Hamsari has participated in many races and got remarkable results. He came 4th in the World Police Marathon held in Spain last year. He said the JAF will organise a series of tests for this athlete in co-operation with the Jordanian Police Sport Union who have previously picked Al Hamsari in many international events.

Mansell fastest in British Grand Prix qualifying

SILVERSTONE, England (R) — Nigel Mansell thrilled a big home crowd Friday by claiming provisional pole position for Sunday's British Grand Prix.

Mansell, driving a Williams, put in a typically bold performance in an interrupted opening qualifying session and set a best time early on of one minute 22.644 seconds.

He was unable to improve on it with second run but remained fastest at the end by nearly half a second.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JULY 13, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Richter Foundation.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Be careful to avoid any sort of argument early then later you can get off on trips and visits and you can bring your best abilities to the attention of others.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have much to do to hold down expenses early today but later you can gain some new avenues through which to have more cash in hand.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have a sort of divine discontent early that can keep you from getting ahead but then it gets placed in constructive channels in the evening to your benefit.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A secret anxiety can keep you from being happy early if you allow it but then as the day passes you get in a more cheerful mood.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Make sure that you do not get upset at some untoward act of one you regard as a good friend as later a perfectly plausible explanation is arriving.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You are able to find the outside problems that have been causing you trouble and to get them behind you so you can forge ahead much more easily.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) As soon as you finish those pressing tasks to be done you can get in touch with or off to some interesting new persons or conditions.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Think over that project

that is so pressing and do what is necessary to get it in back of you as soon as you can, then you can make progress.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your interest in the affairs of your partners should be confined strictly to what your arrangements are with them, then later you can enjoy a hobby with them.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) A day to get at those duties facing you without any further delay and then you can certainly gain the good will of fellow associates.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You want to have a good time and you can in the evening if you stick strictly to what you agreed to do early and then seek amusements that bring happiness.

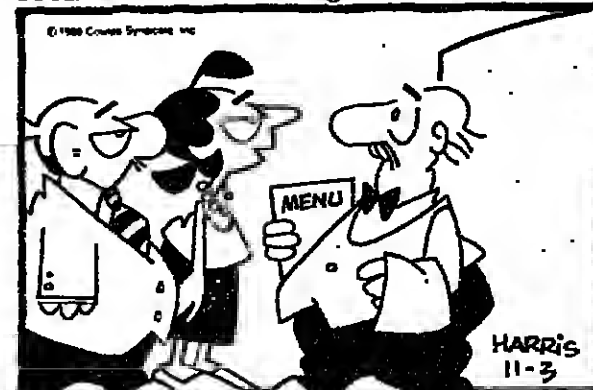
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is your time to be sure you get rid of whatever is standing in the way of your progress after which you can certainly have a jolly time at home.

Today's child: If your child were born today she or he is a real trouble shooter who has the ability to see what is wrong in any situation. This progeny's best vocational occupation relies on their natural talent for replacing poor conditions with new and more satisfactory methods. Seeming to function on a negative note is due to a desire for everything to be well organized.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

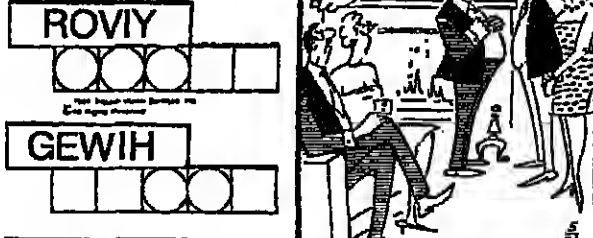


"We're celebrating a special anniversary! Exactly 10 years ago today, he picked up his socks without being told to!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

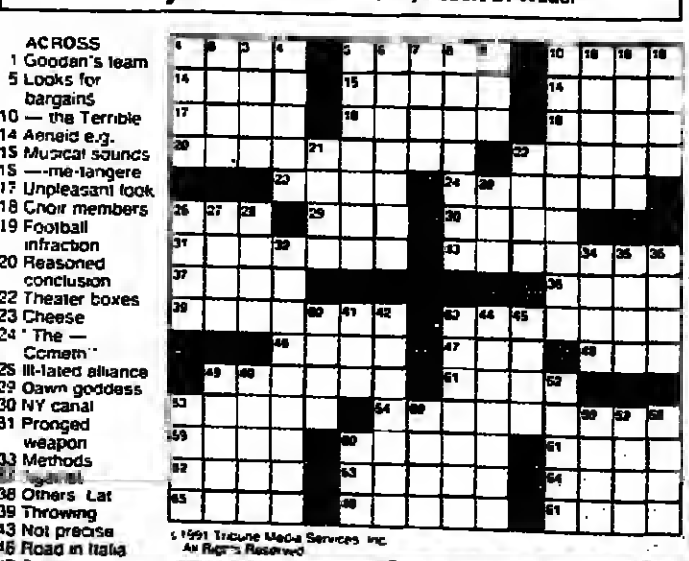


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

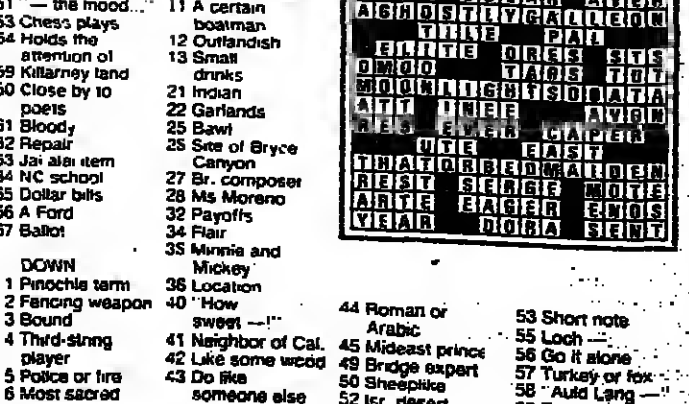
ANSWER: ARENT (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SUITE NOISE EQUITY TANDEM
Answer: What an inquisitive child might "quest" and his parents might "shun"—A "QUESTION"

THE Daily Crossword by Robert D. Wilder



Saturday's Puzzle Solved:



World Student Games opens Sunday

SHEFFIELD, England (R) — The World Student Games, its future once threatened by serious financial problems, opens Sunday with the possibility of world records from a crop of Olympic and world champions.

Britain's European javelin champion Steve Backley, who has twice held the world record, is arguably the most likely candidate among the student competitors to better a world mark.

Backley, having recovered from torn thigh muscles, was due to throw for the first time for two weeks at the London Grand Prix meeting Friday.

After sitting on the sidelines while his world record of 90.98 metres was twice broken earlier this year by Finn Seppo Raty, defending Student Games champion Backley is eager to get back into competition.

He sees the games as a vitally important build-up to next month's World Championships in Tokyo, even more so after missing the European Cup.

"It wasn't easy sitting at home watching the European Cup on TV," said Backley.

Raty threw 91.98 metres in May and then shattered the record in June with 96.96.

The purpose-built pool could also produce some record-breaking achievements, with the powerful Chinese swimming squad holding the potential to go close in several distances. Their women's team includes three world champions plus two Olympic medalists.

Olympic 1,500 metres cham-

pion Peter Rono of Kenya and 200 metres bronze medalist Robinson Da Silva of Brazil are the biggest drawcards on the track.

About 4,000 athletes will compete in 10 sports at the 16th Universiade — the second largest sporting event after the Olympics — and no-one will be more pleased to see the start of Sunday's opening ceremony than games director Ray Gridley.

Last year the games looked as if they might go the same way as the 1989 event when Sao Paulo pulled out and only five events were staged in Duisburg, Germany, which became a late replacement.

Gridley took on the burden of organising the logistics and £27 million (\$43 million) funding when Sheffield Council took over from the original games company which was wound up last year over £4 million (\$6.4 million) in debt.

"I never really had any doubts," said Gridley, who has worked 15 hours a day to bring about the transformation.

"It was a pretty formidable task to take on, but it's amazing how it's all come together so well."

The council will still have to foot the bill for an estimated shortfall of £5 million (\$8 million) but Gridley cut the potential losses with government grants and lucrative sponsorship deals.

More Yugoslavs withdrawn

Yugoslavia has withdrawn

more of its competitors from the World Student Games because of financial problems and civil unrest at home.

Tournament spokesman Penny Dain said Yugoslav teams would not compete in the volleyball and water polo events and three gymnasts also would not take part in the games.

She said the basketball team, which would have been among the favourites to win the gold medal, pulled out several weeks ago because of the cost of sending them.

Yugoslavia is only sending ten competitors and six officials compared with an estimated 40-strong party originally scheduled.

The ten will compete in athletics or in the swimming events.

Chinese insist on equality in bedroom

Bunk beds are out as far as China's World Student Games contingent are concerned.

When they checked into the games village the Chinese wanted them dismantled.

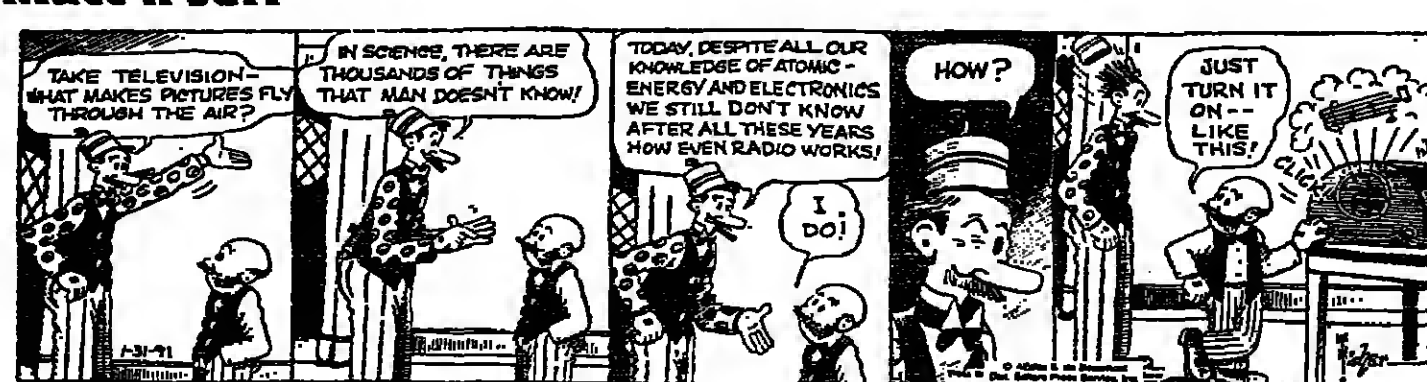
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
1991 Tribune Media Services Inc.

TOO EASY, TOO TOUGH

Neither vulnerable, North deals.

NORTH

♠ K 5

♥ A 6

♦ A K J 7 6 2

♣ K 9 4

WEST

♠ A 8 7 2

♥ J 10 7 2

♦ 8

♣ A Q J 6

EAST

♠ Q 10 9 3

♥ 5

♦ 10 4 3

♣ 10 8 7 5 3

SOUTH

♠ J 6 4

♥ K Q 9 8 4 3

♦ Q 9 5

♣ 2

The bidding:

North East South West

1 Pass 1 Pass

2 NT Pass 4 Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

If you studied the scorecards of the players who held these hands in a team match, it would have looked as if nothing interesting had transpired. Both showed four-heart contracts going down one. Actually, one declarer dropped a cold contract; the other had a difficult rebid to make. Both opted for the descriptive jump to two no trump instead of the underbid of three diamonds, and both Souths became declarers at

Financial Markets

in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Sterling Pound	1.6215	1.6199
Deutsche Mark	1.8135	1.8133
Swiss Franc	1.5707	1.5736
French Franc	6.1515	6.1516
Japanese Yen	136.56	136.67
European Currency Unit	1.1335	1.1332

1 USD = 100 J.O.D.
Exchange rates as of 11/7/1991

Barrel of Oil (Brent)

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	6.00	6.08	6.35	6.50
Sterling Pound	11.06	10.61	10.62	10.62
Deutsche Mark	5.94	9.00	9.15	9.25
Swiss Franc	7.68	7.81	7.81	7.56
French Franc	9.50	9.50	9.56	9.56
Japanese Yen	7.43	7.53	7.43	7.31
European Currency Unit	9.62	9.75	9.93	9.93

1 USD = 100 J.O.D.
Exchange rates as of 11/7/1991

Barrel of Oil (Brent)

Metal	1500 Oz	1000 Oz	Metal	1500 Oz	1000 Oz
Gold	369.35	7.10	Silver	4.43	10

1 USD = 100 J.O.D.
Exchange rates as of 11/7/1991

Barrel of Oil (Brent)

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.685	.690
Sterling Pound	1.1131	1.1167
Deutsche Mark	.3786	.3805
Swiss Franc	.4364	.4386
French Franc	.1716	.1722
Japanese Yen	.4957	.4962
Dutch Guilder	.3362	.3379
Swedish Krona	.1047	.1052
Italian Lira	.0569	.0572
Belgian Franc	.01842	.01851

1 USD = 100 J.O.D.
Exchange rates as of 11/7/1991

Barrel of Oil (Brent)

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8100	1.8350
Lebanese Lira	.0760	.0760
Saudi Riyal	.1830	.1839
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.8100	1.8350
Qatari Riyal	.1830	.1839
Egyptian Pound	.1850	.1850
Omani Riyal	1.7800	1.7900
U.A.E. Dirham	.1860	.1873
Greek Drachma	.3500	.3500
Cypriot Pound	1.3800	1.4100

1 USD = 100 J.O.D.
Exchange rates as of 11/7/1991

Barrel of Oil (Brent)

Index	9/7/1991	10/7/1991	11/7/1991
All Share	112.00	112.04	112.04
Banking Sector	108.94	107.02	107.02
Insurance Sector	120.09	120.19	120.19
Industry Sector	117.19	117.07	117.07
Services Sector	127.15	127.78	127.78

1 USD = 100 J.O.D.
Exchange rates as of 11/7/1991

Barrel of Oil (Brent)

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U.N. body finds severe problems in E. Europe

GENEVA (R) — The collapse of the Soviet-led Comecon trading bloc has plunged its former East European member states deeper into recession and cut trade amongst them far more than expected, United Nations economists have said.

A report by the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) said a fall in trade, particularly in East European exports to the Soviet Union, had been expected as the 10-nation Comecon unwound during 1990 prior to formal dissolution last month.

But it said: "The depth of the actual decline clearly exceeded expectations on both sides. In the East European countries, the fall of sales caused severe problems for industries that had long been specialised to serve the Soviet market."

Production in many of these industries appeared to have been maintained in the first months of 1991, with unsaleable output going into storage, the report said. But output generally continued to fall in the first four months of 1991.

The report updated an annual survey of economic prospects for Europe published last April by the 33-member ECE, which groups all European countries plus the United States and Canada.

It said industrial output in early 1991 fell by 26 per cent in Bulgaria, 19 per cent in Yugoslavia, 17 per cent in Romania, about 13 per cent in Czechoslovakia and Hungary, and four per cent in Poland.

Soviet figures showing an industrial output decline of 5.5 per cent in the first four months of 1991 appeared rather modest "in face of the evident sense of crisis and the widely reported shortages in the country," the report said.

It added that the Soviet Union's external financial situation and its capacity to import goods were likely to worsen in 1991.

Menem asks Argentines for 'little more sacrifice'

BUENOS AIRES (R) — President Carlos Menem, in an emotional speech marking his first two years in office, has begged Argentines for patience and "a little more sacrifice" to overcome years of economic stagnation.

Speaking before a crowd of thousands, the Peronist president reminded his compatriots that he had received a country burning with 200 per cent monthly inflation in 1989.

"Let us think of where we were two years ago, on the brink of civil war, and now we have a civilised country heading towards economic growth. We had a country stricken by hyperinflation and now we have stability," he said.

After a string of failed plans, three economy ministers and seven central bank presidents, Mr. Menem's free market programme has brought inflation down to about three per cent a month.

Reflecting the infant stability, local bank interest rates are between 25 and 30 per cent a year — a level comparable to rates in neighbouring Chile, Latin America's showcase economy.

Economists, however, warn



Carlos Menem

that Mr. Menem's fourth economy minister, Domingo Cavallo, must yet prove he has definitely eliminated the main sources of high inflation: Spurious monetary emission and the public sector's deficit.

In his speech Mr. Menem said economic recovery was close at hand but asked his countrymen to make one last sacrifice.

"We have still quite a distance to go, but next year we will be singing to a different tune," he forecast.

OIC calls for tightening economic blockade on Israel

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — The secretary-general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), Hamid Al Ghabid, has called on the Islamic world to tighten economic measures against Israel.

"Our commitment to the cause for Palestine will only be effective if we tighten the blockade on the economy of the Zionist enemy," he told the sixth meeting of the Islamic Office for the Boycott of Israel.

The office was established by the third Islamic summit which was held in Saudi Arabia in January 1981 as a followup to the economic boycott which the Arab League enforces against the Zionist state.

It is made up of economic representatives of OIC states who compile lists of foreign companies that deal with Israel. The office orders a boycott of those believed contributing to Israel's economy.

The Jeddah-based OIC comprises 44 members.

Mr. Ghabid asked member states who have not yet opened regional boycott offices to do so immediately.

Britain cuts interest rates to 11 per cent

LONDON (R) — Britain cut half a percentage point off interest rates Friday to combat a prolonged recession despite a setback in the fight against inflation.

The cut was expected to boost Prime Minister John Major's political standing as his government struggled to improve its standing in opinion polls before an election due in a year.

The Bank of England cut its money market dealing rates from 11.5 per cent to around 11 per cent and commercial banks followed suit. It also prompted a fall in many home loan interest rates, which have a significant political impact.

But the government had discouraging news in its fight against inflation, which Mr. Major has made his top priority, as a steady fall in the retail price index (RPI) came to a halt.

The year-on-year increase in the RPI for June stuck stubbornly at the May figure of 5.8 per cent while less volatile measures of underlying inflation actually rose slightly.

Economists said poor weather

kept fruit and vegetable prices exceptionally high. Government officials were still confident of hitting a target of four per cent by the end of the year.

"We are well on track to achieve a budget forecast of four per cent inflation in the fourth quarter of 1991," the British Treasury said in a statement.

"The RPI's not going to come down smoothly (but) we are confident of meeting the budget forecast," one government official said. He also said the government stuck by Mr. Major's forecast of an upturn in the economy towards the end of the year, ending a recession that began in the summer of 1990.

"That is still our expectation. We are only a few days into the second half (of the year) ... I think you should start to see something coming through," he said.

John Smith, economics spokesman for the opposition Labour Party, said: "The inflation figures are encouraging and depressing. The underlying rate — excluding mortgages and poll tax — has

gone up from 8.6 to 8.9."

The pound strengthened slightly on the news of the rates cut. The interest rate cut was the sixth since February, as Mr. Major sought to inject new life into an economy beset by falling investment, bankruptcies and fast-growing unemployment.

John Maples, a junior treasury minister, said on television that scope for further such cuts was now limited as Britain's rate was closer to that of its European Community partners.

Lending rates were held at 15 per cent for a full year up to last October as the Conservative government sought to squeeze out inflation. The level peaked at nearly 11 per cent last year, the legacy of a credit-fuelled consumer boom in the 1980s.

A treasury spokesman said the tough policy would continue. "The overriding priority is to maintain interest rates at the appropriate level to keep sterling within its ERM (exchange rate mechanism) bands and to continue downward pressure on inflation," he said.

Indian premier stresses reforms

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao has promised far-reaching economic reforms as India abandons the socialist creed that has guided the state-dominated economy for four decades.

The new Congress government, which came to power last month after India's bloodiest and most traumatic elections, has already acted quickly to deal with the country's worst economic crisis.

Over the past 10 days it has devalued the rupee by nearly 19 per cent against the dollar and announced an overhaul of trade policy, eliminating subsidies and slashing bureaucratic controls on importers and exporters.

"This is just the beginning," Mr. Rao said in an address broadcast to the nation. "A further set of far-reaching changes and reforms is on the way."

India is struggling to repay its \$71 billion foreign debt with its treasury depleted of foreign exchange.

Bankers have begun refusing to extend new loans after the fall of two minority governments in the past 18 months, a runaway fiscal deficit and economic falloff from the Gulf crisis.

"The net result was that when we came to power we found the financial position of the country in a terrible mess," Mr. Rao said.

"Desperate remedies call for drastic measures. That is what we have done, and that is what we will continue to do," he stressed.

Senior government officials said a new industrial policy featuring major deregulation of the state-dominated manufacturing sector would be announced next week.

A package of foreign investment incentives is also on the way, along with reforms to the nationalised banking system.

"We believe that a bulk of government regulations and controls on economic activity have outlived their utility. They are stifling the creativity and innova-

tiveness of our people. Excessive controls have also bred corruption," Mr. Rao said.

He said India had much to learn from what is happening elsewhere in the world, particularly in the Soviet Union, its most important ally and a key trading partner.

"We find economic transformation sweeping large countries like the Soviet Union and China as well as small countries in eastern Europe. There is a change in outlook, a change in mind-set everywhere. India cannot lag behind if she has to survive, as she must, in the new environment," Mr. Rao added.

He said the devaluation of the rupee would allow India to export more goods and earn vitally needed foreign exchange.

"And why do we need to earn foreign exchange so badly? Not to import luxury items, but to buy commodities like kerosene and diesel, fertilizers, edible oil and steel. My objective is to make India truly self-reliant," he said.

"My motto is trade, not aid. Aid is a crutch. Trade builds pride. India has been trading for thousands of years."

India is negotiating with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a multi-billion dollar loan that would shore up its foreign exchange reserves and help finance the reforms.

The package of measures is expected to be debated vigorously in the new parliament which opened Tuesday, given the widespread perception that they are being dictated by the IMF.

The economic restructuring is likely to cost some jobs, trigger labour unrest and fuel inflation, which is already running into double digits, economists say.

"It will be dishonest of me to pretend that the job of repairing our economy will be easy, quick or smooth," Mr. Rao said, adding that it would call for sacrifices from everyone.

"This is no time for partisan politics," he added.

Albania to legalise borrowing, liberalise foreign investment

TIRANA (R) — Albania, Europe's poorest country, plans to allow its citizens to borrow money for the first time in decades and to liberalise rules on foreign investment.

Economics Minister Gramoz Paskho said. In a television interview, he added that a package of measures to be adopted next week would enable foreigners to invest freely in Albania.

"Free initiative should be allowed to individual enterprises and companies to invest and cooperate freely," Mr. Paskho said.

Under the autocratic Stalinist rule of dictator Enver Hoxha, who died in 1985, Albania was totally isolated from the rest of the world for four decades.

The country's first non-communist government since World War II last month announced plans to slash spend-

ing and create a market economy. "We are working to establish a bank credit system for individuals," Mr. Paskho said, announcing the end of a long-standing communist ban on private banking.

Mr. Paskho added that the government had set up a commission to investigate "financial abuse" by the former communist rulers.

He said a European Community delegation would visit the country this month to discuss possible emergency aid.

The new European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) would discuss admitting Albania next month.

Mr. Paskho said the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank would admit Albania in the autumn "if we are serious in the measures taken to reform our economy."

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

FEDS

Show: 3:30, 6:45, 8:30 p.m.

BIKINI SHOP

Show: 5:15, 10:45 p.m.

Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571

NUJUM

Ninja Turtles

Show: 3:30, 5 p.m. only

Tennessee Buck

Show: 12:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

PRETTY WOMAN

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

THE BEACH GIRLS

Show: 3:30

REVENGE

Show: 6:30, 8:30

CLUB PISCINE

SATURDAY EVENING

Happy hour 6:30 p.m. → 11:00

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Swimming until midnight.

Free entrance.

Light snacks & dinner available round the pool

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DOG FOUND

Male yellow Labrador dog found near Zahran Palace 10 July.

Owner should contact 641786 (or British Embassy 823100) immediately

Soviet parliament approves union treaty with recommendations

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet parliament approved President Mikhail Gorbachev's union treaty in principle Friday, but introduced strong recommendations likely to cause trouble with the republican governments.

The assembly voted 307 to 11 with 18 abstentions to approve the draft treaty, the Kremlin leader's blueprint for a new, looser Soviet federation.

It instructed its representatives to be "guided" by various amendments to the draft Mr. Gorbachev hammered out with leaders of the nine participating republics.

These included support for a direct federal tax and a directly-elected upper house of parliament, both certain to annoy Russia, the Ukraine and the other republics.

Mr. Gorbachev, keen to secure parliamentary approval for the treaty before next week's aid talks in London, was meeting parliamentary leaders.

Six of the 15 Soviet republics — Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Georgia, Moldova and Armenia — want outright independence and refuse to have anything to do with the treaty.

Mr. Gorbachev risks being squeezed between the other nine, all increasingly assertive republican governments, and the Supreme Soviet, a central parliament loath to cede its powers.

At the same time he wants to present a united front to leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) industrial countries on July 17 and 18, when he will be seeking Western aid and investment.

Friday's resolution was passed in principle, but could be

amended article-by-article later. The parliament was due to recess for the summer, however, at the end of the day.

The resolution said the treaty should be signed by Mr. Gorbachev and the parliamentary leaders, jointly representing the centre.

The delegation should also take into consideration the results of a referendum held in March which produced a large majority in favour of a continued union of states, it said.

This was apparently an attempt to retain the word "Socialist" in the country's official title, as it featured in the referendum question. The draft treaty renames the country Union of Soviet Sovereign Republics, bringing in "sovereign" for "Socialist".

The issue of a direct federal tax is one of the most awkward. The Kremlin wants the right to impose direct taxes on enterprises throughout the federation.

Both Boris Yeltsin's Russian Federation and the Ukraine, the two most powerful republics, insist that all federal tax revenue be funnelled through the republican governments.

The draft treaty also provides for the upper house of the new federal parliament, the Chamber of the Republics, to be nominated by republican parliament.

Friday's resolution said it should be directly elected, like the lower house.

The parliament said autonomous regions, partially self-governing ethnic areas within the republics, should sign the treaty separately.

This would undermine the status of Mr. Yeltsin's Russian Federa-

tion, which includes almost all these regions. But the reference was slightly watered down in debate.

The parliament also appealed to the six breakaway republics to maintain good relations with the centre.

It passed a separate resolution urging them to "study the text of the union treaty and try to find ways of preserving friendly ties with the renovated federation."

In a separate development, Eduard Shevardnadze was elected chairman of a new reformist movement Thursday and given an insulting farewell from ex-comrades in the Communist Party.

The former foreign minister was chosen to head a four-man committee to organise a founding conference of the Movement for Democratic Reforms in September, the independent news agency Interfax reported.

Mr. Shevardnadze and eight other prominent reformers agreed last week to create the new organisation, following his statement that the country needed a loyal opposition to balance the Communists and create a "two-party state."

Four days later he quit the Communist Party, telling reporters his conscience tortured him after serving the party loyally for four decades.

The Communist Party Control Commission, which acts as the party disciplinary arm, issued a statement Thursday blasting Mr. Shevardnadze's reason for quitting and condemning him for refusing to submit to its review of his statements.

"It is apparent that the motives prompting Eduard Shevardnadze to announce his resignation from the party were far-fetched," the commission said in a statement carried by the Soviet News Agency TASS and read on the evening TV newscast.

The commission defended its "invitation" to Mr. Shevardnadze to explain his intention to create the party, which many officials predict would precipitate a split in the 16.3-million-member ruling organisation.

"Most probably, being unwilling to carry his own large share of responsibility for the party's present situation, Eduard Shevardnadze gave up active struggle for implementation of the C.P.S.U. policies and actually began to form its opposition in a new party."

"Thus, Eduard Shevardnadze's announcement is the logical conclusion of a process of degeneration of his political views."

Meanwhile, one of Mr. Shevardnadze's co-signers in the new movement, Communist Party maverick Alexander Rutskoi, reportedly planned to announce formation of his own new party.

The Russian government-run Russian Information Agency quoted sources from Mr. Rutskoi's "Communists For Democracy" faction as saying Mr. Rutskoi intended to hold a founding conference before the scheduled July 25 meeting of the Communist Party Central Committee.

Mr. Rutskoi claims 3 million followers in the party. It was unclear how creation of his party would affect Mr. Shevardnadze's movement.

Rao government seeks confidence vote

NEW DELHI (AP) — Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao asked parliament Friday for a vote of confidence in his minority government, but winning it seemed the least of his worries.

Ahead lie myriad problems, including rejuvenating a near-bankrupt economy and controlling long-festering separatist movements in three states.

The 3-week-old government is expected to win the vote, since all parties agree the country cannot go through another grueling and costly election.

The vote will be held Monday after Mr. Rao concludes the debate.

Mr. Rao's Congress Party and its allies control 245 votes, nine short of majority of the 507 occupied seats in the Lok Sabha. Thirty-six seats are vacant in the 545-member Lower House. Two members are nominated and have no voting rights.

The opposition Bharatiya Janata Party, controlling 121 seats, said it will vote against the one-time confidence motion that Mr. Rao submitted Friday.

But the National Front, a centre-left alliance led by former Prime Minister V.P. Singh which has 126 seats, said it will abstain, which would assure passage.

"I know my party is going to vote against you but I am sure your government is not going to fall," said Lal Krishna Advani,



P.V. Narasimha Rao

the leader of the Hindu fundamentalist Bharatiya Janata Party, or Indian People's Party (BJP).

Opening the debate on the motion, Mr. Advani attacked the government's approach to the separatist revolts by Muslims in Kashmir, Sikhs in Punjab and Assamese in the far eastern state of Assam.

He said the government sent "the wrong signal" to the secessionist forces by granting amnesty Monday to suspected militants jailed in Assam.

About 300 people were released in a bid to win freedom for 14 government officials being held hostage by the rebels since July 1. Two hostages were freed, and a Soviet technician who also was seized was killed while attempting to escape, the rebels

said. At the same time, Mr. Advani criticised the government's inability to secure the freedom of a senior oil company executive being held by Muslim rebels in Kashmir since June 28.

"What has happened until now doesn't instill great confidence in the government," Mr. Advani said.

Mr. Rao became the Congress leader after the May 21 assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. He took office June 21.

He inherited foreign exchange reserves hardly sufficient to cover one month's imports, and a foreign debt of nearly \$80 billion.

In his first two weeks, Mr. Rao devalued the Indian rupee by almost 20 per cent, apparently to induce the International Monetary Fund to grant loans of up to \$7 billion.

He also sold stocks of the nation's gold in the international market to earn about \$200 million.

The two moves drew sharp criticism from opposition members in parliament.

Mr. Rao and his top two cabinet ministers, Finance Minister Manmohan Singh and Defence Minister Sharan Pawar, also by law must win parliamentary seats in by-elections within the next five months to keep their jobs.

U.S. Senate passes anti-crime package

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States Senate has passed a sweeping anti-crime package that would impose the death penalty for 51 crimes, curb death-row appeals and require a waiting period for handgun purchases.

The legislation, approved Thursday on a 71-26 vote, toughens penalties for drug dealing and using firearms to commit crimes and bans certain assault-style semiautomatic weapons.

Those voting against the bill were mainly opponents of gun control and critics of the death

penalty. Forty-five Democrats joined by 26 Republicans voted for the measure. Ten Democrats joined by 16 Republicans opposed final passage.

The focus now switches to the House of Representatives, where the Judiciary Committee is expected to draft an omnibus crime bill before lawmakers leave on their August recess. So far, details of the bill have not been released and there is no way to tell how soon the measure might reach the House floor.

The Senate package includes

gun-control provisions that President George Bush said he would sign only if Congress enacted a crime bill to his liking. Mr. Bush last week expressed general satisfaction with the measure, which contains many of his legislative objectives.

The bill contains a nationwide five-day waiting period for handgun purchases, modification of the seven-day wait passed by the House in May. The bill would also ban nine types of semiautomatic assault weapons.

Seoul opposition bounces back from defeat

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's main opposition party, which fared poorly in last month's local elections, considers the poll was less a loss than a lesson learned, a senior member said Friday.

"We don't think of it as a failure but have learned much from it," Park Young-Rok, a senior member of the Supreme Council of the New Democratic Party (NDP) told reporters.

Although the NDP lost to the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), the party did not do as badly as news reports said, he said. The NDP was ready for next year's presidential, general and big-city mayoral elections, he said.

The NDP, under veteran opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung,

lost heavily to the DLP on June 20 in the first local council elections for 30 years. President Roh Tae-Woo's DLP swept 564 of the 866 seats.

The NDP won 165 seats, but 137 were in southwestern Cholla, Kim's stronghold and 21 in Seoul where many Cholla people have settled.

"Although we lost, the results show that in Seoul, out of the 132 members, NDP was successful in obtaining 21 seats. But 98 members ranked second," Mr. Park said.

"If they had done a little better, then we could have at least won 110 seats. So it was not a total loss."

After the elections, Mr. Kim said he would step down as leader

and take responsibility for the loss. Party members asked him to stay on.

Mr. Park said the NDP was planning for next year's elections, but was concerned about corrupt practices. Both the ruling and opposition parties accused each other of vote-buying in last month's polls.

"Elections must be fairly conducted and then we would support the verdict of the people," Mr. Park said, when asked if he would acknowledge his party's defeat if the DLP won again in the coming elections.

"However, the present government is known for its unfair and corrupt elections. So we are very concerned that this would happen again."

Bush to visit Japan to stress strong ties

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (R) — U.S. President George Bush, shot down by the Japanese during World War II, plans to visit Japan just before the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

"I think Japan has been a good partner in many, many ways. And we have a strong bilateral relationship that I believe this visit will enhance even further," he said Thursday.

Mr. Bush, a navy pilot who narrowly escaped death when shot down in 1944, told a news conference with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu it was critical for friendly ties to continue.

The approach of the 50th anniversary of Japan's Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor has heightened Japanese anxieties about the steadfastness of their chief protector and main trading partner.

Mr. Kaifu and his wife were overnight guests at Walker's Point, the president's seaside vacation home in this scenic New England resort.

Mr. Bush, who will also go to South Korea and Australia during the late November trip, said he was anxious to visit Japan to underscore the strength of relations between the United States and its main Asian ally.

Ramos needs Aquino backing in poll race

MANILA (R) — Philippine Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos, who submitted his resignation this week so he could concentrate on the 1992 presidential campaign, said Friday he needed President Corason Aquino's backing if he was to win.

"It's very important," Gen. Ramos told a news conference when asked if he needed Aquino's endorsement.

Mr. Aquino, swept into office by a popular revolt in 1986, has repeatedly said he will not stand for election again when his six-year term ends in June 1992.

She has said she will announce early next year the name of the candidate she will back for the presidency.

Gen. Ramos, seen as one of Aquino's most loyal supporters, has consistently enjoyed high ratings in opinion surveys, largely because of his role in crushing the six-coup attempts the president has faced.

Gen. Ramos indignantly denied suggestions his policies, first as armed forces chief and then as defence secretary, had helped to provoke the coup attempts.

"That is a very far-fetched statement... that is already in the



Gen. Fidel Ramos

realm of fantasy," he snapped. A reporter had asked him to comment on statements by right-wing army rebels that he helped to divide the military by favouring certain officers and failing to check corruption in the armed forces.

"You only have to look at the records, look at the facts," Gen. Ramos said.

"(The facts) say... that I have led the Defence Department including the armed forces, in confronting and defeating coup attempts and preserving our democratic system. That's the record," he said.

Dutch court acquits 4 Irish nationals

ROERMOND, Netherlands (R) — A Dutch court on Friday acquitted four Irish nationals of membership of an illegal organisation, the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Gerard Harte, 27, will be freed but Donna Maguire, 24, Sean Hick, 30, and Paul Hughes, 27, will be kept in custody for extradition to Germany.

Mr. Harte was earlier sentenced to 18 years in jail by the same court for the murder of two Australian tourists. His conviction was quashed by an appeals court last week which also upheld the acquittal of the other three.

The IRA admitted killing lawyers Nick Spanos and Stephen Melrose in Roermond in May 1990 during a wave of IRA attacks in Europe. It said it mistook them for off-duty British soldiers.

The court said there was insufficient legal or conclusive proof that the four had taken part in IRA activities and that they would not be convicted under Dutch law.

"It is not a question of whether they were members of the IRA but only of whether they took part in behaviour to execute the aims of the IRA. This has been insufficiently proven and the four should be acquitted," said Judge Ed Bakermans.

The retrial on the charge of membership of an illegal organisation was ordered by the appeals court after the court in Roermond originally declared the charge null and void.

It was unclear whether Mr. Harte would be released immediately at the court or after paperwork was completed at the jail where he has been held.

He has already been held in jail for over a year. Under Dutch legal practice he would not be held longer pending a possible prosecution appeal against the IRA membership charge, which carries a maximum penalty of five years.

A court official said Mr. Hick and Mr. Hughes would be extradited to Germany before July 31 where they are both wanted as suspects in the June 2, 1990 murder of British Major Michael Dillon Lee in front of his home in Dortmund and a bombing at British barracks near Hanover a month earlier.

Ms. Maguire is also wanted in Germany but will stay in Dutch detention until her appeal against extradition is heard by a Dutch Supreme Court, probably in September, according to Dutch officials.

China lashes out at U.S. weapons sales

PEKING (R) — China, stung by a U.S. House of Representatives vote to remove its preferred trade status, attacked the United States Friday for linking trade to arms sales while being a major dealer itself.

"We wonder why you gentlemen from one of the world's largest arms exporters only accuse others?" asked a strongly-worded editorial in the Communist Party newspaper People's Daily.

"Why don't you look at yourself in the mirror first?" it added. The commentary quoted figures on U.S. arms deals, which it said proved the United States was a major supplier to the Third World, particularly the Middle East.

"Let's see who in the world should first control arms sales," it said.

China's Foreign Ministry angrily Thursday to the House passage of two bills on trade with China, saying they were "absolutely unacceptable."

One of the bills passed Wednesday would end most favoured nation (MFN) trade status, while the other would attach conditions on arms sales to politically volatile areas.

The bills must go before the Senate, possibly as early as next week. President George Bush

seems certain to veto either or both bills if they reach his desk.

A prominent China scholar Friday warned that China might go so far as to sever ties with the United States if MFN were removed.

"They are prepared to accept a break in relations (with the United States)," University of London Sinologist David Sambaugh, told a press lunch.

"They don't want to break off relations but are prepared to on reasons of principle..." he said.

In a separate development, China announced Friday the sacking of a senior provincial official for graft, part of an effort to convince the public that the Communist Party's war on corruption had not stopped.

Yang Jie, the director of the Tobacco Monopoly Bureau in the poor inner region of Ningxia, was also stripped of his Communist Party membership for taking bribes and privately trading tobacco, a government monopoly, the official People's Daily newspaper said.

Mr. Yang, who was under arrest, netted the equivalent of \$17,000 in bribes. Many peasants earn less than \$100 a year.

Public rage over corruption in the government and the party was a major force behind the pro-democracy protests.

Burmese junta strips opposition of parliament seats

BANGKOK (R) — More than a year after failing to hand over power to Burma's democratically-elected opposition, the ruling military junta has ordered that opposition members be stripped of their parliamentary seats and banned from elections.

The decree, broadcast on official Rangoon Radio Wednesday night, applied to all those elected to the country's National Assembly who had been convicted of any of a wide range of offences or violated the election law.

It was signed by General Saw Maung, head of the junta that seized power in 1988 by brutally crushing nationwide pro-democracy protests.

The junta has been widely criticised by Western countries for failing to hand power to the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) after it swept the May 1990 general election, taking 392 of 485 contested seats.

Western diplomats estimate that more than 60 NLD National Assembly members have been jailed or forced to flee the threat of arrest since the election. The junta has delayed calling the assembly saying that many parliamentary candidates had failed to file election expenses as required under the election law.

Gen. Saw Maung's decree said the changes it stipulated to the election law were retroactive to May 31, 1989, when the law was first enacted.

It said any person who had been convicted of an offence, such as high treason, which carries a sentence of death or transportation for life, was barred from all future elections.

Those convicted of lesser offences or who had breached the election law were barred from elections from five to 10 years, it said.

A transcript of the Rangoon Radio report was seen in Bangkok Friday.

Eastern Europe makes hesitant progress towards press freedom

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eastern Europe's new democracies have made hesitant progress towards press freedom, with Poland and Hungary taking the biggest strides and Romania and Yugoslavia lagging, a U.S.-sponsored survey shows.

The International Media Fund survey showed that barriers to the free flow of information continue to exist nearly two years after the collapse of communism in the region.

"Almost everywhere, the print press has made the most notable progress," while "everything, the authorities in power seem determined to maintain a virtual monopoly over television," the International Media Fund reported.

In general, "the march toward media freedom has been slowed to a crawl," declared the fund's 30-page report, titled "Impediments to the development of free media in Eastern Europe." The report was issued Thursday.

The fund is a nonpartisan organisation that seeks to promote independent news gathering in Eastern Europe by using private contributions to replace U.S. government support for such activities.

The survey was based on May

visits to Europe by the fund's chairman and vice-chairman, Marvin L. Stone and Leonard Marks, and on research by U.S. Information Agency (USIA) officials and other sources.

Mr. Stone, a former foreign correspondent and editor of U.S. News and World Report magazine, has been USIA deputy director while Mr. Marks headed the U.S. government agency under President Lyndon Johnson.

According to the survey, Poland and Hungary "seem well on the way to creating a diverse, private and independent press environment," while Czechoslovakia is "creeping only slowly toward the goal," with Czech Republic ahead of Slovakia.

Those three nations "seem to have the best intentions to loosen the tight controls over state television," the report added.

But Romania and Yugoslavia "seem not to be enthralled with democracy itself, much less independent broadcasting and a truly free press," it said.

In Slovenia and Croatia, which have declared independence from the Yugoslav Federation, "the governments still try to control the media, but even when they do not, the journalists themselves

have only feebly begun to think of what press freedom really means," the report said.

It added that public opinion surveys in both Slovenia and Croatia showed that people believe "more in the government's right of access to the media than the public's right to hear opposition views."

New media laws under preparation in most of the countries contain numerous restrictions in contrast to the declaration of press freedom enshrined in the U.S. constitution, it said.

"The new government of Slovenia approached the USIA several times to ask for assistance in drafting legislation to 'control the media,'" it said.

Other obstacles to press freedom include government control of national news agencies, newspaper, printing presses and periodical distribution networks. The report described as "sick" the practice of monopoly distribution by Hungary's "inefficient" postal service.

It recommended fresh journalism training because many journalists who had worked under the former Communist regimes continue to regard subservience to the government as a virtue.

Robbers get away with \$17.3m in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP) — Three men hijacked a security van at Hong Kong Airport Friday and escaped with the equivalent of over \$17.3 million in what police said was the largest cash robbery in the British colony. Police said the cash — \$17 million in U.S. currency and 3 million in Hong Kong dollars (\$384,615) — was being transferred by the Republic National Bank of New York to an affiliate bank in Taiwan. Police said the robbers, armed with what appeared to be pistols, ambushed four guards in the security van at the airport cargo terminal where they had been waiting to transfer the money onto a morning flight to Taipei.

The guards were blindfolded and shoved into the rear of the van which was driven to a nearby construction site where the robbers transferred the money. They escaped in another van driven by an accomplice. The four guards managed to untie themselves and report the robbery, police said. They said none of the robbers was masked and no shots were fired. A police spokesman said it was the largest cash robbery in Hong Kong, far exceeding earlier robberies that averaged about 20 million Hong Kong dollars (\$2.5 million). An official of Republic National Bank, who declined to be identified, said the money was being transferred to Taiwan as part of a normal business transaction. He said it was insured and a reward of about \$1 million has been offered for the capture of the robbers and recovery of the money.

The bill contains a nationwide five-day waiting period for handgun purchases, modification of the seven-day wait passed by the House in May. The bill would also ban nine types of semiautomatic assault weapons.

Mr. Harte was earlier sentenced to 18 years in jail by the same court for the murder of two Australian tourists. His conviction was quashed by an appeals court last week which also upheld the acquittal of the other three.

The IRA admitted killing lawyers Nick Spanos and Stephen Melrose in Roermond in May 1990 during a wave of IRA attacks in Europe. It said it mistook them for off-duty British soldiers.

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